USA GYMNASTICS

Official Magazine of the United States Gymnastics Federation

March/April 1986

America's New Heroine

Kristie Phillips Shares McDonald's American Cup Title With Soviet Union's Alexsei Tikhonkin

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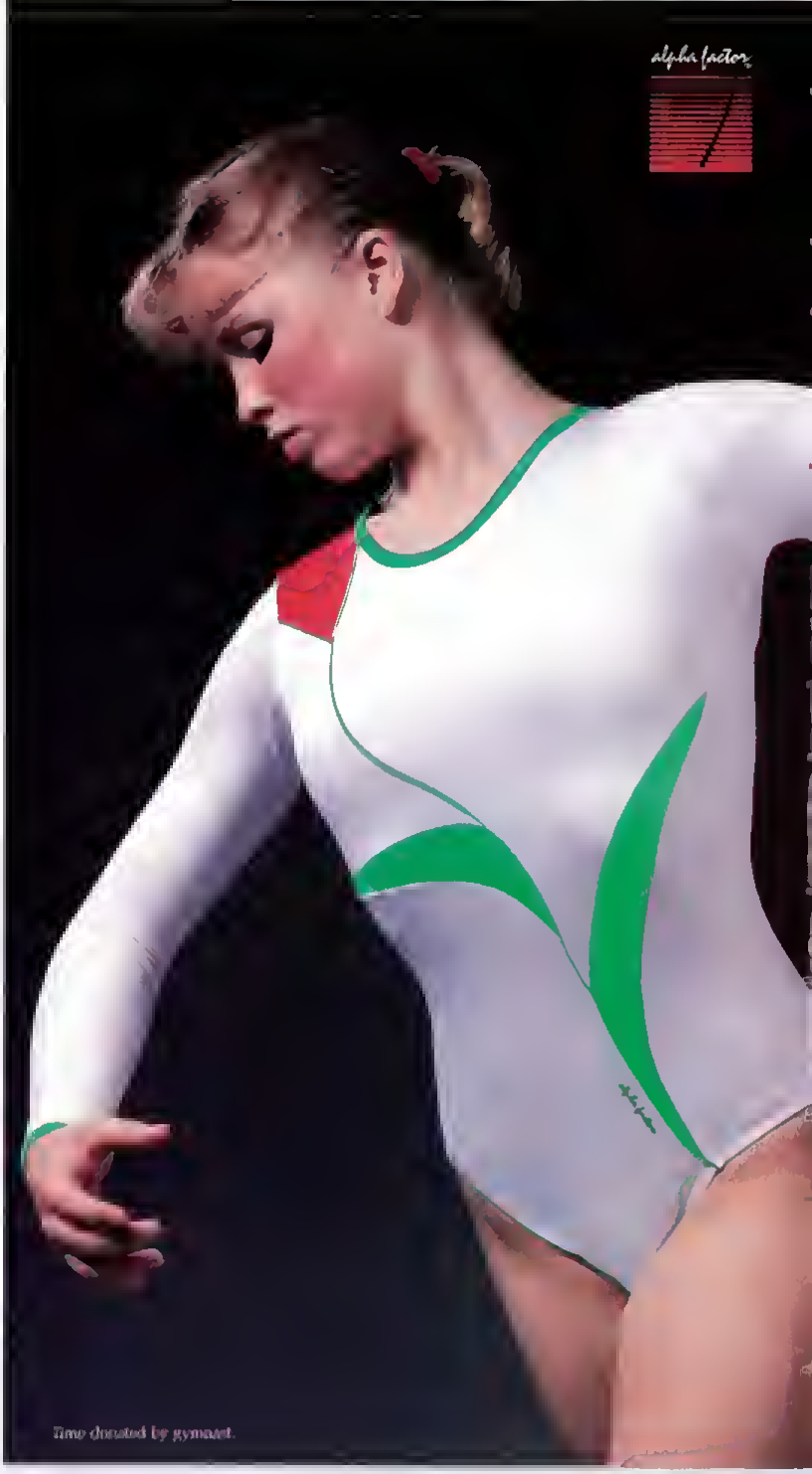

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On the cover: Kristie Phillips captured the hearts of America as well as the McDonald's American Cup title recently in Fairfax, Virginia. The USGF Junior champion defeated the likes of Sabrina Mar (left) the senior champion of the USA. (USGF photos © 1986, by Dave Black)

Inside This Issue

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USGF EDITORIAL

Setting The Standard

When talking about sports in America, usually mentioned are football, basketball and baseball. It's true that these are the standards of our national sports programs. In evaluating these sports, a few things become very obvious. First, every year there continues to be outstanding teams, tremendous individuals and stronger and stronger programs. We know there are extensive developmental and grass roots programs. Of great assistance to these three sports are the excellent programs found in the public school systems all across America. In addition, YMCA's, park and recreation programs and many other national organizations conduct programs in these sports.

In a final evaluation, we can make certain conclusions about these sports and their success. There is no area of the country that does not or cannot field a competitive team. Every state, whether at the high school, collegiate or even professional level has the ability to field a strong team. Although some programs seem to have excellent teams every year, there seems to always be new teams and new stars coming from programs located almost anywhere. Granted, there will be restrictions. Programs that are better funded and have better facilities and coaching are usually going to end up on top. However, that still seems to be challenged constantly. Lastly, because of the type of game that these sports are centered around, everyone plays under the exact same rules and regulations. Even though the rules may be modified for younger, or smaller, players, the integrity of the game is not changed. Therefore, there is a way to measure the teams and individuals progress, success and accomplishments that can be recognized across the country.

Now speaking about gymnastics, what can we learn from these sports to help us progress? First, it is obvious how important great numbers of competitors are. We have heard there are seven million gymnasts in the Soviet Union. Secondly, standardization of programs and methods becomes essential. Thirdly, we cannot have a system that has only a limited number of programs that generate elite athletes. There are youngsters in every state and every city that have the potential of being a champion gymnast. It simply becomes the matter of finding them, then coaching them.

Of primary importance, and perhaps the single-most critical step, is raising the level and standards of coaching. If we are going to have a system that will allow a youngster to develop from any program, we must provide that coach and his program with the necessary tools for him to accomplish this. Currently, there are relatively few coaches who would feel comfortable coaching an elite athlete. Compare this to football where there are hundreds or even thousands of coaches who can coach a championship team. It's not that the coaches are not capable, it's simply having the time and money to be able to get the information, learn it and be able to implement it in the program. This is very time consuming and expensive. Usually, these restrictions make the difference from one club or program creating an elite athlete and another club not.

Even if our goal is not to create an elite athlete, the program design and construction should still be the same. We must develop a way to assist the

coaching community The coaches must be given the assistance and background necessary to allow them to develop each athlete to their fullest potential.

Right now, only a handful of clubs create our top athletes If we can increase the number of clubs that develop elites, the level of the elite program will accelerate. If every club had the potential of developing a top athlete, the standard of the entire sport would be raised to a new level. We would be running better programs, teaching with greater direction and effectiveness, and creating a new standard for all new coaches and athletes to follow

This is a difficult topic to discuss. We have the finest coaches and the finest facilities in the world. But, we need to find a way to assist all these coaches and the athletes that they coach, to become the very best they can It is ridiculous to think that top athletes can only come from certain programs An Olympian can be developed from any program in the country We must find a way to make sure that can happen

Usually we hear from a small group of people when it comes to the elite program. Since we are in the process of program design, we encourage your suggestions, comments and ideas I would ask that you respond directly to me at the USGF office as soon as possible. Perhaps by working together we can find all the new Mary Lou Rettons and Bart Conners, no matter where they are

For the United States Gymnastics Federation
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Playing It Safe

Good Advice For Gymnasts And Medication

By Stu Stuller

Editor's Note: This is the second part of a two-part series dealing with drugs and the athlete. Part 1, Cracking Down On Drugs, appeared in the January/February 1986 edition of USA Gymnastics.

One of the first things gymnasts making the U.S. National team get is a lecture from team trainer Jack Rockwell about the USOC's drug testing program. "The athletes should be very careful about medications they are taking," Rockwell said. "They're young adults. They have to take the responsibility to be familiar with this."

In addition to Rockwell's lecture, the United States Gymnastics Federation's (USGF) Cheryl Grace points out that gymnasts making the national team have to sign a National Team Agreement, which stipulates they will be responsible for knowing what's allowed, what isn't and for changing existing prescriptions to medications which don't contain banned substances.

At the moment, gymnasts solely associated with USGF competitions are only being tested at International Olympic Committee (IOC), U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) events (Olympic and Pan American Team Trials, the U.S. Olympic Festival, Pan American Games and Olympics) and Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG) events. "The USGF hasn't asked for testing anywhere else," Grace said. "It's kind of expensive and we really don't think there's a need for it." According to Rockwell, the number of athletes tested at the recent World Championships in Montreal, was down from the number tested at past championships in Moscow and Budapest.

This doesn't mean only gymnasts competing at an international level will be subjected to testing. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) recently approved a drug testing program of its own which will go into effect starting in the fall of 1987. John Toner, chair of the NCAA Special Committee on National Drug Testing Policy, says drug testing will begin at collegiate national championship events in the fall of 1987, adding, drug testing has already started for some athletes at the conference or institutional level.

'New products are appearing on the shelves all the time, as do old products with new twists. "New and improved" just might mean "New and illegal" for competitive athletes.'

The Big 10 conference currently has a drug testing program of its own and, according to Toner, almost 100 Division I schools have testing programs with more schools waiting to act until after the NCAA formally announces program details. The NCAA's list of banned drugs, like the USOC's, will include all IOC banned substances with the addition of marijuana and alcohol (unlike the USOC).

The NCAA's test protocol, or actual testing procedure will be "very similar" to the USOC's protocol, which in turn duplicates the IOC's. "We have to be consistent with IOC standards in all tests," said Dr. Robert Voy, Director of the USOC's sports medicine program. "Mainly, we want them to hold up — we don't want any false positives. We want them to be accurate."

Summarized, the USOC's testing procedure is as follows. At events other than Olympic Trials (in which all athletes likely to make the Olympic team are tested) test athletes are selected at random. Immediately following the selected athlete's last event, he (or she) is notified by a testing team courier that he (or she) is required to report to the testing facility in one hour. The athlete is allowed to have a companion in the testing station to monitor procedures. The courier stays with the athlete until reporting to officials at the testing facility.

At the station, the athlete provides the testing crew with a urine sample (preferably 100ml.). That specimen is then poured by the athlete into two specimen bottles, capped, crimped, sealed and labeled under the observation of the athlete and witness.

That's all required of the athlete, unless the specimen is too small or proves to be alkaline during an on the spot test. (Alkalines can slow the excretion of an amphetamine). In either case the athlete is required to stay at the test site until another suitable sample can be provided.

The two bottles, A and B, along with the bottles from other athletes are then shipped to a lab at UCLA where specimen A is subjected to a mass spectrometry and gas chromotagraphy tests. If the tests are negative, that's the end of it. If the tests report positive, the athlete is notified of the results and an appeal can be instituted. The appeal consists of testing specimen B, which hasn't been opened since it was sealed at the original site. The athlete, or a representative, may be present at the testing of specimen B, which is carried out by a technician other than the one who tested specimen A. The results of the specimen B findings are final.

"The only reason it was tolerable," said Kathy Johnson, 1984 Olympic Silver Medalist and a veteran of the testing procedure, "was because we had to do it. It was pretty scary in a way because there

were some things on there (the banned list) which you wouldn't believe."

Indeed, the USOC's most recent banned drug list is 45 pages long with 75 substances listed on each page. More than 3,300 substances are listed—at the bottom of each page carries a warning written in capital letters. "CAUTION. THIS IS NOT CONSIDERED A COMPLETE LIST! RELATED SUBSTANCES ARE BANNED!" However, these drugs represent only the categories of Stimulants, Narcotics, Antibolic Steroids and Beta Blockers.

With 3,300 substances constituting only a partial list, one would assume that it would be easier to assemble a "safe" list. Unfortunately, it is not. The pharmaceutical industry possess one of the most volatile markets in any business. New products are appearing on the shelves all the time, as do old products with new twists. "New and improved" just might mean "new and illegal" for competitive athletes.

Despite the boggling number of banned substances and the rapid changes on store shelves, staying safe is as simple as staying informed. Athletes on specially prescribed medication (for asthma or other ailments) should check with the USOC hotline (800-233-0393) to find out if the medication contains banned substances. If the medication does contain a banned substance, ask the physician to change it.

The nightmare of non-drug using athletes is innocently consuming something that can jeopardize their careers. The best way to escape this scenario is to avoid innocent consumption of anything. Do not repeat cyclist Alexi Grewal's mistake of taking a "herbal" medicine on the advice of a friend. Prescribing medicines, even the allegedly benign "herbal" medicines, is the province of physicians. If it's not food, not prescribed by a physician or if the athlete doesn't understand exactly what it is and what it does, then the athlete shouldn't swallow it.

It's conceivable a coach with a gymnast complaining of a headache or cold during warm-ups, could pull a substance out of a gym bag to help, which could potentially, and innocently, place the gymnast in jeopardy. Coaches who carry over-the-counter medicines should be prudent shoppers. Many of the over-the-counter drugs contain banned substances.

Of a long list of alleged cold antidotes submitted to the USOC, the only over-the-counter remedy which does not contain a banned substance is Robitussin Plain. Be careful! Robitussin CF, Robitussin DM and Robitussin Night Relief all contain banned substances. The difference between the formulas demonstrates the complexity of the marketplace. Other cold remedies which contain banned substances include: Allerest, Drixoral (both syrup and capsule), Ny-Quil, Vicks Formula 44 (including 44 D, 44 M and 44 Decongestant), Contac (both Cough and Severe Cold Formula), Sudafed (including Sudafed Plus and Sudafed 12-Hour), Actifed, Sineoff, Sineaid, Coricidin 'D' and Dristan. Again, the above list is only partial. If you have something not listed, call the Hotline.

In the area of nasal sprays, Neo-Synephrine, Duration, Four-Way and Sinex are **banned**. Afrin and Dristan Long Lasting are acceptable.

For sore throat relief, Cepastat, Axon, Cepacol, Aspergum, Sucrets, and Nice are all acceptable.

Pain relievers get a little complicated. The easiest rule to follow is, **asprin is acceptable**. Vanquish, Excedrin and Bufferin (both Regular and Extra Strength) are also acceptable. Tylenol is okay, but **Co-Tylenol is banned**.

By itself, Anacin is acceptable, **but Anacin 3 is banned**. However, Anacin also contains caffeine. While one would have to consume approximately six cups of coffee in one sitting to reach the allowable limit for caffeine (12 mcg/ml), an athlete could approach that limit by combining coffee with Anacin, Empirin or APC. Other substances which contain caffeine and therefore could put an athlete over the allowable limit are No-Doz, cola drinks, chocolate bars and tea. Some speciality teas can contain an extraordinary amount of caffeine or "ma haung," a form of ethedrine.

Drug testing is new and will require certain adjustments on the part of coaches, trainers and athletes. However, the adjustments for the athletes who are playing it by the book are minor.

Survey Confirms Gymnastics "Clean"

Editor's Note: The following is a capsulized report of a study done by Keith Henschen and Bill Sands of the University of Utah, which was sanctioned by the United States Gymnastics Federation (USGF). The study, entitled 'Drugs and Gymnastics', will be printed in its entirety in **Technique**, Volume 6, No. 2 in May of 1986.

Once again the issue of drugs being used and abused in sports has reared its ugly head. This problem of drug use by world-class athletes has reached such monumental proportions that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) deemed it necessary during the last Olympic year (1984) to require drug screening tests of all Olympic contenders.

It was the intention of this investigation to gather information on the drug tendencies of contemporary gymnasts. The sport of gymnastics was selected because of its "clean" reputation and due to the success of the gymnasts representing the United States in the recent Olympic Games.

Just how prevalent is the use of drugs in gymnastics in the United States? If drugs are being used, who actually used them? At what age do gymnasts turn to drugs? Who supplies these foreign substances? Which drugs are commonly used? Are male or female gymnasts more prone to drug usage? In an attempt to answer the previously posed questions, the USGF sanctioned this drug survey investigation.

Gymnasts from registered private clubs (with the USGF) throughout the United States were forwarded the survey. Two hundred, fifty-eight gymnasts (241 females and 17 males) voluntarily returned the questionnaire. These numbers appear to be lopsided in favor of females, but they are actually proportionate to participation according to gender in the United States.

(See Drug Record, page 41)


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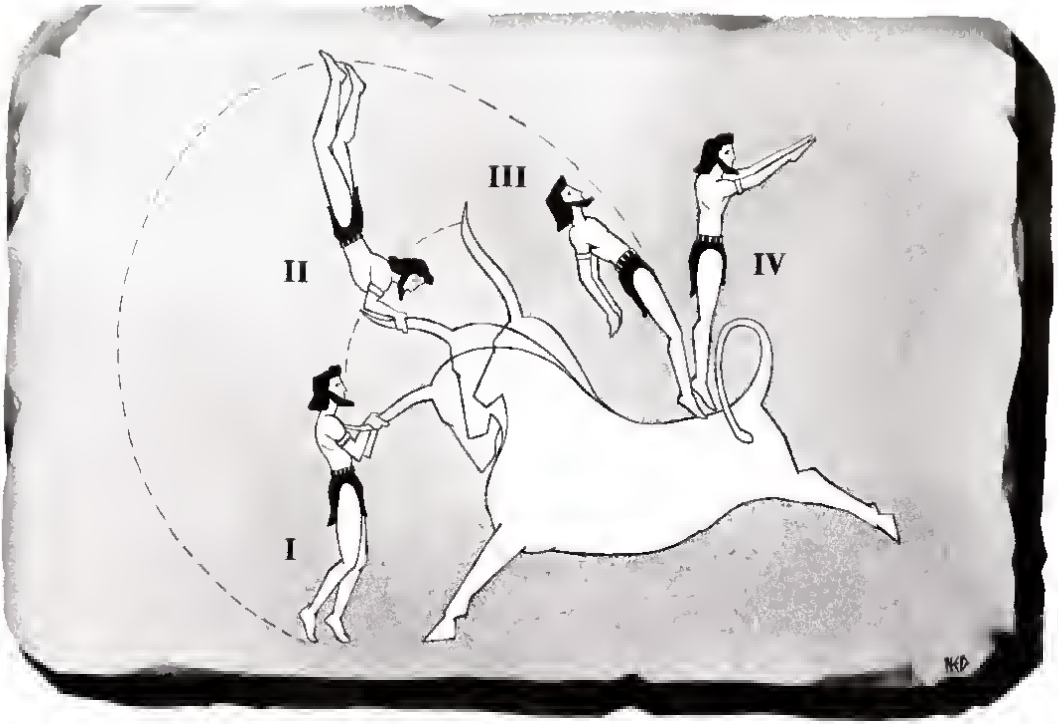


Gymnastics Through The Ages

By Laurie Einstein Koszuta

Gymnastics Proves To Be Ageless Sport

Gymnastics has come a long way since the days of the court jester and acrobat entertaining royalty with tumbling routines and pratfalls. From the rudimentary beginning to the sophistication of today, one question has remained: Is gymnastics a sport or simply an activity — or both? As an activity, gymnastics was used as a form of relaxation and entertainment. It evolved into a sport when participants and spectators alike began to make comparisons in style and form. Once the comparisons began, the popularity of the sport of gymnastics began and flowered.

The early tenents of the sport were simple and can be traced back to ancient civilizations. The earliest known form of gymnastics can be evidenced in the relics left behind by past civilizations. Pottery shards and hieroglyphics traceable to the Greek and Roman empires show that gymnastics and fitness were an important part of their lives. Greeks greatly admired the human body and felt the mind and body could be improved through physical development. This development was the reason why the Greeks chose public festivals to demonstrate this physical strength. Gymnos, a Greek word meaing naked, defined the manner in which these demonstrations in ancient times were performed. These festivals served as fore-runners to the Olympic Games.

The ancient Olympics, which lasted 1,000 years, were originally a festival dedicated to the Greek god, Zeus. The Games, held every four years, were based on strength and agility and were one way the Greeks counted time.

The Greek's love of the sport spawned the building of gymnasiums to house the necessary equipment for the athletic contenders. Local schools, complete with rooms for music, art, swimming pools and hot tubs, became a part of the complex. It was the intent of the builders there should be a place where sportsmen could relax or practice their skills. The earliest form of teachers, coaches and athletic trainers were appointed to each facility to surpervise the competitors moral and physical attributes.

'These learned Garman men sought to incorporate their theories of physical fitness into daily practice for their students.'

Romans, taking their cue from the Greeks, noticed how the emphasis on physical activity could be born to the preservation of a strong military. They began teaching gymnastics to young men as a preparatory stage for military readiness. This training, which resembled maneuvers of war, used vigorous gymnastic movements. Once the training was complete, the movements were performed before state dignitaries who then judged the applicant's acceptability. The Romans used rigid and heavy movements, while the Greeks continually emphasized individual expression, beauty of execution and aesthetically pleasing skills which are still in use in the modern era.

Among the earlier contributors to leave a lasting impact on gymnastics were Alexander the Great and the Macedonians. Their zealous desire for conquest led them to develop a crude wooden horse which soldiers used to practice mounting and dismounting. This wooden horse led to the development of the modern vaulting and pommel horse in which mounting and dismounting are important aspects of each routine. As recently as 100 years ago it was still common, even during competitions, to find painted horse faces on one end of the vault and a tail at the other.

Since gymnastics was practiced widely in Greece and Rome, it was not surprising to find the sport in a dormant state when their empires declined. After their decline, acrobats and dancers were left to perform their moves not as a show of agility and strength, but as pure entertainment. This left a void in the sport of gymnastics which was not to be filled for several centuries.

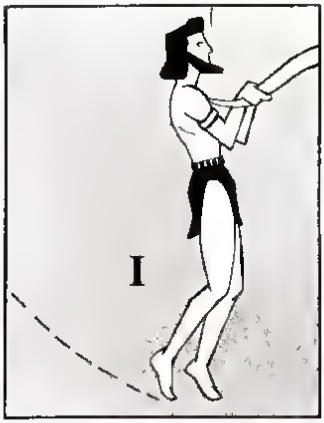
It wasn't until the 18th and 19th centuries that the value of physical education was once again recognized, this time by Swedish and German educators. These learned men sought to incorporate their theories of physical fitness into daily practice for their students. For this reason, Guths Muths is known as the grandfather of gymnastics. His first written work on gymnastics in the 1700's described exercises on swinging beams, balance exercises, rope, ladder and pole climbs.

In Germany, Friedrich Ludwig Jahn idealized the concept that the body could be trained for strength rather than beauty alone. To substantiate his philosophies, Jahn developed the parallel and high bars. He demonstrated these fixed apparatus at the Turnplatz, an open air gymnasium in Germany in 1811. To Jahn, the fixed apparatus demanded a high degree of strength and often was used as a power exercise to develop shoulder muscles needed when working with the pommel horse.

Jahn's enthusiasm for gymnastics led him to promote the sport and the apparatus he developed. He traveled throughout Europe performing exhibitions. The words Turnen, Turner, Turnplatz, Turnkunst were invented by Jahn and became technical terms related to gymnastics.

The Turnverein or Turners was a group of gymnastics clubs developed after Napoleon's wars. The Turners were established as a means of promoting national power, unity and self-respect among Germans. Since Germans relished the idea of mass demonstrations, the first festival by Turnverein was organized in Berlin in 1861 and drew 6,000 gymnasts.

German immigrants to the United States brought the Turnverein idea with them and set up the first American club in Cincinnati, Ohio. The goal of the Turners was participation rather than observation alone.



Ohio ethnic groups also used gymnastics as the basis of their club's existence. In an attempt to eliminate tyranny from Czechoslavakia, two Czech gymnasts, Dr. Miroslav Tyrs and Jindrich Fuegner, formulated the Sokols in 1862. Their philosophy was that a morally strong, physically fit group of countrymen would lead to an independent and powerful nation. Their thinking spread to the United States where Sokol organizations can be found in many cities.

Although gymnastics was slow to catch on in the United States' school system, it did well in athletic clubs and organizations such as the Sokols and the Turners. These organizations helped to solidify competitive gymnastics, particularly after the Civil War.

Owing to a change in social structure, as well as increased patriotism on the parts of the returning troops after World War I and II, ethnic gymnastic organizations began to decrease in influence and in the number of participants. Interest in club gymnastics wavered and began to return to high schools, junior colleges and colleges. This trend eventually changed the athletic clubs' role as the sole supplier of coaches and athletes to international competitions.

Adolpf Spiess took Jahn's philosophy one step further by including gymnastics as a form of athletic discipline for children. Because of Speiss' and Jahn's work, alone with other notables, physical training programs soon became a part of the curriculum in many European schools. This caused a resurgence of international interest in gymnastics by both developers of apparatus and participants.

At that time, a debate began to rage as to whether gymnastics should be considered a sport or should be included in physical education programs. The argument centered on two distinct styles, one Swedish and the other German. Per Henrik Long, a Swedish poet considered to be the father of Swedish gymnastics, held strong to the Swedish style which emphasized free expression. He viewed the abundantly closed rooms, compulsory exercises and apparatus work of the German system with disdain.

It soon became apparent that the crossfire between the styles would continue unless an international authority could blend and standardize the goals of the gymnast. This led to the development of the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) in 1881.

'The ancient Olympics, which lasted 1,000 years, were originally a festival dedicated to the Greek God, Zeus. The Games, held every four years, were based on strength and agility.'

Throughout its early existence, the FIG had problems with nations who refused to join for political reasons, but eventually nations active in gymnastics did support its philosophies and became members.

Similar problems occurred in the United States. Due to the fact that many organizations held national meets every year, it was hard to determine who was really a national champion. Each group, from the Sokols, Turners and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) had its own interpretation of the rules and its own compulsories with no unifying standard to the sport. This made participating and following gymnastics difficult to understand.

Thus, the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) was formed in 1881 by a group of 15 athletic clubs to alleviate this problem. This new group challenged an existing organization known as the National Association of Amateur Athletes in America (NAAAA) for control of amateur athletics. Both groups wanted exclusive control and passed restrictive legislation barring athletes from participating in events the other groups had sanctioned. The NAAAA became internally fractionalized and a splinter group, the Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletes of America (ICAAAA), broke off from the NAAAA eventually causing the NAAAA to lose support of colleges and be disbanded in 1889.

Although the AAU was considered the sanctioning body for amateur sports in the United States, it continued to have troubles. Despite the efforts of several groups who supported the idea of separate federations for each sport (such as the YMCA, Boy Scouts and NCAA), the AAU's political clout proved to be too much for them to tackle. The AAU's delay tactics, along with the U.S. entrance into World War I, undermined any opposition. The federation idea never got off the ground.

While the AAU fought to remain a dominant force in the regulation of amateur athletics, a reconciliation was in the making. The NCAA and the AAU, apparent rivals in the early years, finally banded together long enough for the organization of the Olympic Games in 1932 which were held in Los Angeles. Only seven foreign nations were represented due to limitations in travel, and it was fewer than those who participated in the 1924 Olympic Games held in St. Louis.

While the sport was changing in other ways, one thing that didn't change was the participation by women. Gymnastics was by definition more of a man's sport. Equipment such as the rings, high bar and parallel bars were designed to show off masculine features such as muscle size and strength. It wasn't until 1928 that women were finally invited to compete in team events only. After 44 years of team competition, women formally competed in individual events in 1952.

Women used the parallel bars for training and exercise but not for competition because muscle activity were considerd unfeminine. To make the apparatus appear more feminine yet

(Continued on page 14)

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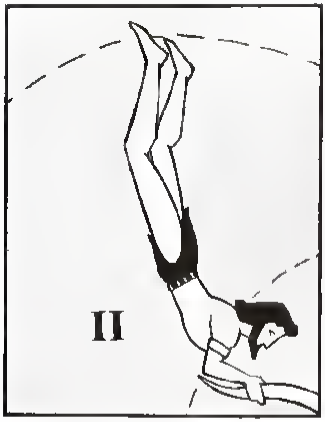


still have the capacity to show strength and endurance for women, the bars were separated. One bar was set at five feet while the other was raised to seven feet, six inches.

The 20th century ended a period when slow movements and strength were important and were replaced by exercises that emphasized both strength and swinging movements. It was a dramatic change, but one that women got used to and began using in competition along with the balance beam and vaulting horse. Once the uneven bars were accepted, women did not return to the parallel bars for competition. The floor exercise was introduced into Olympic competition in 1932 and was designed to demonstrate strength, coordination and flexibility.

After the 1932 Olympics, and for several years afterward, the NCAA and AAU were able to peacefully coexist until problems in the 1950's again surfaced. Subsequent Games focused on competition from nations not previously thought to be contenders. The Japanese especially demonstrated a unique blend of complexity and grace not previously seen in international gymnastics competition. In 1952, the Soviet Union, competing for the first time against 29 nations, also showed great strength and superb skill in all phases of competition.

Prior to World War II, gymnastics was considered a minor sport in the United States. Because much of the emphasis in American sports was placed on track and field, it came somewhat as a shock when the Russians won medals by increasingly large margins in several sports but particularly track and field. It soon became apparent that if the United States were to be competitive internationally, these seemingly minor sports had to be upgraded.

This new attitude created a wave of interest in gymnastics not only by participants and spectators, but also by equipment manufacturers as well. New and better equipment was produced for the first time in 50 years. With the interest came the desire for new information, new methods and techniques for gymnasts to use. The desire was slow in being satisfied. Since there was no organization structured to meet the need, no information could be produced or disseminated.

The AAU attempted to meet the demands that the surge of interest had created but was limited in its ability and fell short of expectations. In response to the lack of new information, coaches became disgruntled and took their grievances to the United States Olympic Committee (USOC). After much discussion and several years passage the United States Gymnastics Federation (USGF) was formed in 1962 — amid protests by the AAU.

By that time, coaches were trying to find ways to present the USGF case to the FIG as THE sanctioning body in the United States. The formation of the USGF was a way to unite the gymnastics community. European gymnastic federations supported the decision of a separate entity for gymnastics in America and hoped that this move would aid the sport in its rise above mediocrity.

The USGF began to promote the sport, distributing rule books, the FIG's code book, pamphlets, posters and other materials. When it became evident that a decision had to be made regarding the national governing body for the United States, the FIG made it based on which organization actually promoted gymnastics. Looking at several factors, one of which was the sales of FIG code books by the USGF, the FIG designated the USGF the national governing body in the United States. Gymnasts sat on the board of directors and helped make decisions that ultimately affected them in their own sport. Regional, national and international gymnastics meets held new significance, and athletes began using these competitions as a training ground for the Olympic Games.

'It wasn't until the 18th and 19th centuries that the value of physical education was once again recognized, this time by Swedish and German educators.'

The emergence of televised sporting events drastically changed the face of competitive sports as a whole and gymnastics specifically. In 1964, during the Olympic Games, this visual medium created an international audience and a renewed surge of interest. The number of television viewers swelled to 20 million for the 1972 Olympics. Even though the 1972 Olympics were marred by terrorism and murder, television allowed the world to see a tiny Russian competitor named Olga Korbut perform in a way that had not been seen before. It was Korbut who created not only spectator interest in women's gymnastics but real participant interest as well. Soon after the Olympics gymnastics schools were overflowing with female students eager to emulate Korbut.

With interest in gymnastics at an all time high, the 1976 Olympics were much anticipated. They were not disappointed by the perfect performance of a 14-year-old Romanian, Nadia Comaneci. Both Comaneci and Korbut changed the direction of gymnastics.

As Americans continue to win medals at major international meets such as the Olympics, excitement and enthusiasm is soaring. The enthusiasm is infecting more and more of today's young people and instilling in them a dream — a dream that includes the hard work, preseverance and dedication to excellence necessary for its attainment. A dream which will hopefully lead to the realization that it is not the final standings or the gold medals that should be most revered, but the personal satisfaction in knowing that supreme effort was given. This dream is not a new one, yet it is as important today as it was in Rome centuries ago.

Backing America's Best

The gymnastics community has spilled its long kept secret — the National Age Group Program is where the next Olympians, world champions and national team members will be made and discovered. The gymnastics community has known this since day one. Now the Dodge Division of Chrysler Motors has discovered the juniors and has signed a three-year contract (through 1988) to be the corporate sponsor of the National Age Group Program and the official supplier of cars, vans and trucks to the United States Gymnastics Federation (USGF).

Executive Director of the USGF, Mike Jacki, is thrilled with the new relationship. "Gymnastics represents commitment, dedication and the continual striving for perfection," Jacki said. "Our goals parallel what Dodge has done and continues to do and strive for — to be the best. We are sure this is the beginning of a long and fruitful relationship."

National Car Merchandising Manager for Dodge, Mike Kelley, shares Jacki's sentiments. "Dodge is committed to being the best division in the automotive business," Kelley said. "The performance of the United States Gymnastics Federation and the people it represents clearly demonstrates that they share our commitment to be the best. We are proud to join with them."

The main focus of the sponsorship will be the more than 6,000 age group meets run nationwide annually. Dodge will provide promotional materials to the meets in an effort to publicize our sport, the young gymnasts and USGF member clubs. Each promotional package will include 100 publicity posters (all four color and beautiful!), 100 program folders (could provide extra revenue for the club), a 3' × 10' banner which says "Dodge, USA Gymnastics, Backing America's Best," press release paper and a booklet that contains promotional ideas. These materials are FREE to the meet directors and will be available for all USGF-sanctioned meets during the 1986-87 and 1987-88 seasons. This year, the materials will be sent to all meet directors for state, regional, zone and Junior Olympic Nationals — automatically.

'The main focus of the sponsorship will be the more than 6,000 age group meets run nationwide annually. Dodge will provide promotional materials to the meets in an effort to publicize the sport, the young gymnasts and the USGF member clubs.'

The promotional packages are being provided by Dodge, at the corporate level. This relationship between the USGF and Dodge opens up the possibilities for local tie-ins. In the booklet included with the promotional packages, several ideas for local dealer involvement are outlined. They include: tagging the dealer's existing advertising with the meet information, creating a new ad specifically for the meet and running it in the local paper, providing meet souvenir t-shirts for all competitors (which have the Dodge logo on them), sponsoring a "Dodge America's Best" Award for sportsmanship or team support, performing at a mall exhibit with Dodge vehicles present in order to publicize the meet and/or having the dealer sponsor a contest associated with the meet. The possibilities are limitless.

A second major aspect of the sponsorship is the commitment to develop and test market a talent identification contest similar to football's Punt, Pass and Kick. Currently, the structure of the program tentatively entitled GymQuest is being identified by a task force. This program is open to and aimed at boys and girls ages 6-13 who have never participated in extra curricular gymnastics. GymQuest will test children's ability in five events, all of which will be objectively measured either by time or distance. After test marketing in late spring/early summer, the program, if approved, will begin the the spring of 1987.

The Dodge-USGF relationship also has several other elements in it such as a fund-raising effort for the USGF and GymQuest in one of Dodge's consumer publications and providing vehicles for use during major competitions such as McDonald's Championships of the USA and McDonald's American Cup.

Although the sponsorship relationship runs through 1988, both Dodge and the USGF have high hopes that it will be a permanent relationship.

Changing of the Guard

Brian Ginsberg had the meet of his life, placing second all-around to the Soviet Union's Alexsei Tikhonki.

By Mike Botkin

Kristie Phillips made it known to the nation she is the heir-apparent to the throne vacated by Mary Lou Retton. She proved her point Sunday, March 2, when she narrowly defeated Bulgaria's Borjana Stojanova and the Soviet Union's Irina Baraksanova to take the women's all-around title of the 1986 McDonald's American Cup.

For the men, young Brian Ginsberg (19) displayed a cool demeanor usually reserved for competition-wise veterans. Leading throughout the final round, he fell just short on the last event to take a very respectable second place finish to the Soviet Union's Alexsei Tikhonkin.

What looked like a repeat of last year's American Cup, Phillips took the place of Retton in the bear-hugging arms of her coach Bela Karolyi. In an event that was enjoyed live via television by millions of Americans, Karolyi's thick Romanian accent could be heard over the sellout crowd, shouting instructions to his newest phenomenon.

'Phillips, the youngest American ever to compete for the Cup at age 13, responded in her first 12 seconds sticking her whip back through to a piked double back, ending the first and dangerous pass with a huge smile.'

The script couldn't have been written better. Both men's and women's competitions came down to the final routine. For Phillips, a score of 9.65 or better on floor was needed to capture her biggest title yet. For UCLA sophomore Ginsberg, a 9.95 would clinch the top spot of his biggest meet ever.

According to Karolyi, Phillips faced some tense moments as he watched her during her perilous first pass. "Her first tumbling pass is the most important to make," said Karolyi. "It is her hardest. It is combination tumbling which is very, very hard. It is risky and the highest difficulty of her routine. After that (the first pass) she is handling everything very well. After the first 12 seconds we gonna know."

Phillips, the youngest American ever to compete for the Cup at 13, responded in her first 12 seconds sticking her whip back through to a piked double back, ending the first and dangerous pass with a huge smile. It was all downhill after that point and she was on her way to a 9.80 and her first McDonald's American Cup title.

"Ever since I finished my beam routine, the first pass was on my mind," said a beaming Phillips. "I did it and I'm so excited. Before, I just told myself to go normal like I do in practice and if I did, I knew I could do it."

To the victors, Alexsei Tikhonkin and Kristie Phillips, go the spoils of the McDonald's American Cup (USGF photos © 1986 by Dave Black)

Baraksanova of the Soviet Union, was in a position to grab the lead away from Phillips with a great floor routine, her strongest event. But on her second pass, the 1985 World Championship veteran stepped out of bounds, taking away the possibility of the 9.75 needed to take the lead, scoring instead a 9.625 for third place.

"I am not in top shape," said Baraksanova, through an interpreter. "I can't perform to my full level. The time change has thrown me off and I just don't feel well (There is an eight-hour difference between the United States and the Soviet Union). It is for this reason that I am very disappointed in my performance."

It was cold air inside the Patriot Center on the campus of George Mason University that gave second place finisher Stojanova her hardest time. "I kept getting cold. I felt good, it was just cold," she said. "This is one of my best performances. In Austria, it was the same situation, there was a very strong membership," said Stojanova who recently finished 11th all-around in the World Championships. "Today I learned to be consistent and to keep my mind straight."

American Sabrina Mar suffered through her hardest campaign since becoming national champion. Mistakes on beam (8.925) and bars (9.000) overshadowed fine routines on floor (9.650) and on vault (9.375). Her total, 36.950, left her in sixth place. Since the World Championships in November, Mar has been suffering from an ailing back which has inhibited her training procedures.

On the men's side, Ginsberg did not lose the competition, Tikhonkin took it away from him. Falling behind by .350 after four rotations, the Soviet gymnast decided to show the over-capacity crowd why his team ran away with the World Championship title. In his last two events, parallel bars and high bar, Tikhonkin scored 9.90 on each to snatch the McDonald's American Cup title away from the awed Ginsberg.

"His last two routines were simply incredible. Those are the best sets I have ever seen. He deserved the scores he got," said the gracious Ginsberg, who was the first to congratulate the victor after his high bar routine.

'On the men's side, Ginsberg did not lose the competition, Tikhonkin took it away from him. Falling behind by .350 after four rotations, the Soviet gymnast decided to show the over-capacity crowd why his team ran away with the World Championship title.'

Tikhonkin's final routine was breath-taking as the key elements included a reverse hecht followed by another reverse hecht into an immediate Geigner. And he stuck his triple back dismount, cold.

Ginsberg entered his high bar set needing a 9.950 to capture the title outright. But the fatigue that accompanies competing in a prestigious international event took its toll on the inexperienced gymnast. He touched his hand on his straddled half-in, half-out, and scored a 9.550 opening a wide door for the Soviet.

"I added a couple of new elements in my high bar routine and I was a little tired at the end of my set — a little nervous too. All of the release

Injury riddled Tim Daggett was forced to bow out during finals competition

moves I went for and I just fell a little short on the dismount," said Ginsberg. Bart Conner, 1984 Olympic gold medalist and commentator for CBS's live broadcast of the event called Ginsberg's dismount a "flying Thomas Flair."

Losing the title in the last event was not an overwhelming disappointment for Ginsberg. "I couldn't even conceive that after five rounds I would be in the lead. I thought if I went in and hit my sets, I would end up somewhere in the middle, maybe in the lower half. I never thought I would even make it into the finals."

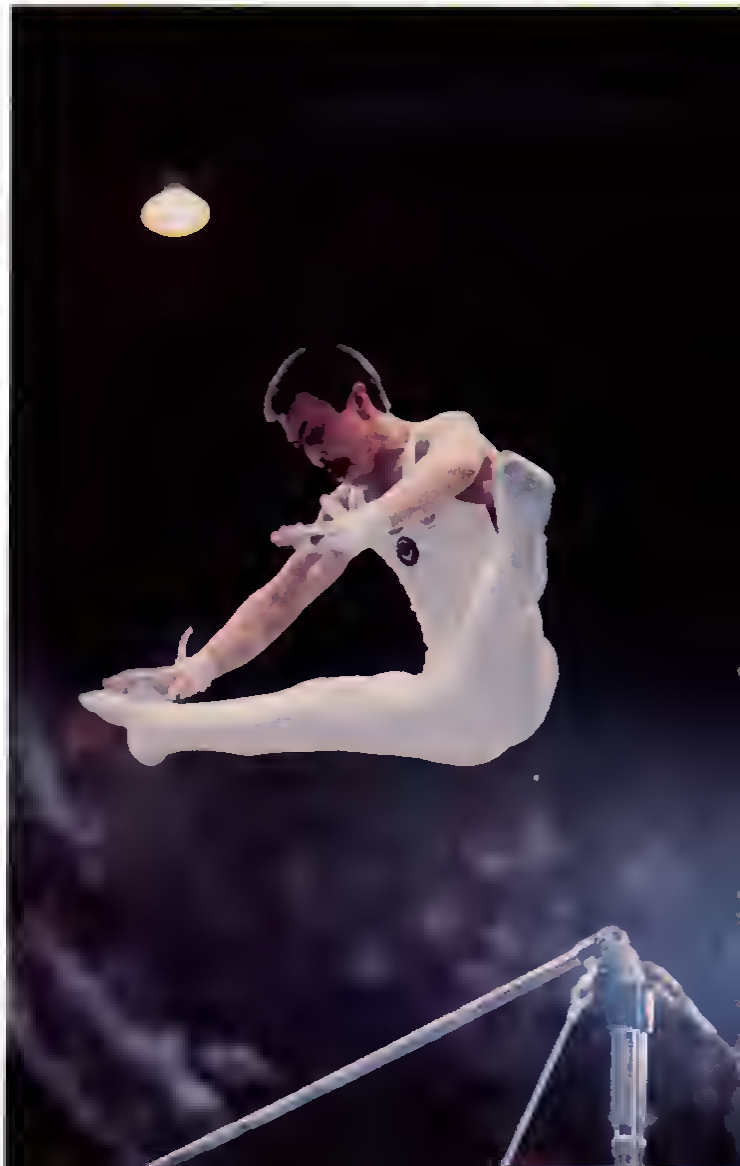
But, as planned, this international meet was a very valuable learning tool for the youth America presented. "My confidence level has doubled," said Ginsberg. "I have learned that my competition level is a lot better than I had thought. I am just going to keep working hard, and whatever happens, I will be pleased."

An ankle injury on the first pass of his floor routine during finals robbed Tim Daggett of the chance to successfully defend his McDonald's American Cup title. Daggett, who was sluggish but still managed to qualify in the preliminary competition, was scratched after finishing third round in sixth position.

"I hurt it early on floor and while I was competing on pommel horse, all I could think about was how bad my ankle hurt and I got lost in my set," said Daggett. After that event, Daggett had trainer Jack Rockwell look at the injury and after their consultation, Daggett decided to withdraw from the meet. "His injury isn't too serious, but it is serious enough to keep him out of the competition," said Rockwell of Daggett's right ankle. The Olympic veteran was also fighting off a case of the flu which drained his strength during pre-event training. He is expected to return for the USA-USSR dual meet April 26-27 in the Boston area. (Note: for ticket information, call 1-800-382-8080)

After placing first in the qualifying round, China's Wang Chongsheng lagged a bit behind the leaders but finished with a strong high bar routine of 9.90, to take third place away from France's Laurent Barbieri. Only a 10.00 would have given the 19-year-old student from Beijing Institute for Physical Education a second-place tie with Ginsberg. Wang is a relative newcomer to gymnastics, beginning his career in 1980. His progression has been rapid. During the American Cup, he did a double-twisting, layout Tsukahara on the vault, and dismounted high bar with a high triple flyaway.

Barbieri is a three-time veteran of the McDonald's American Cup where he has become quite a favorite. "I like this competition very much," he said in broken English. "Last year I finished fifth, I am happy I finished better." The 25-year-old had a very good meet, especially his floor (9.70) and high bar (9.80) routines. "I was very fortunate to hit on such a good routine," he said of his high bar performance.



The power of the Soviets was demonstrated by Alexsei Tikhonkin during his high bar routine (USGF photo © 1986 by Dave Black)

Preliminary Competition

The final results could have been altered drastically if Missy Marlowe had not suffered a fall from beam At the time of the fall, Marlowe was in first place, ahead of Phillips and Mar She failed to retain her balance after completing a back handspring layout, stepout on beam, which dipped her score to 9 125 and her all-around standing to fourth, behind final-round qualifiers Phillips and Mar This came on the heels of her fine optional routines on floor (9 675), bars (9 713) and vault (9 675)

In these events she tied for first in vault with Phillips, placed first in her favorite event, bars, and tied for third on floor with Mar and Baraksanova

Although actually qualifying by placing fourth, Marlowe was unable to compete in finals due to an American Cup rule which puts a limit of two U S gymnasts in the finals. "I felt really good about my performance," said Marlowe, 14, of Rocky Mountain Gymnastics in Salt Lake City, Utah "That's just the breaks I think it's a fair rule to allow other countries to participate"

Mariana Tudor, of Romania, found herself wedged between Phillips and Mar after the preliminary round Her floor routine, for which she scored a 9 800, bolstered her in the standings Tudor is the current Junior National champion of Romania and is ranked sixth in that country She stated her idol is Olympic and World Championship star Fcaterina Szabo

Brian Babcock found himself in the same position as Marlowe after the first round A weak floor routine and vault hurt his chances to secure a spot in the finals This, coupled with the strong performance of Ginsberg and the steady output of Daggett, put him in seventh behind his two teammates

"I felt very good about all of my routines," said Babcock with a shrug of his shoulders "I wish I could be competing, but that's just the way things go"

Daggett's fortunes were slightly better in the preliminaries than in the finals But overall, the defending champion and Olympic gold medalist was not pleased with his efforts "I did not have that good of a day," he said. "I woke up not feeling well The crowd was fantastic. I enjoy competing at home because it really relaxes me"

CBS Enjoys 'Difference' Of Gymnastics

By Mike Botkin

"Camera six, close in on a tight head shot — 10 seconds to air time. Camera three, hold it right there, ready with the overall shot Que talent, okay let's roll graphics, bring up the music and — action"

With watch-like precision, the Columbia Broadcast System (CBS) began another sports telecast But this one was special, it was the McDonald's American Cup gymnastics meet and it was live "It is very unusual to do a live gymnastics telecast," Director Joe Aceti said

A live television broadcast isn't as easy as it appears to the viewer. There was a lot of teamwork involved with the CBS crew assembled and the staff conducting the meet When air-time came at 4:31 p m E S T March 2, the fourth rotation had to be over and warm-ups for the fifth rotation in progress.

During the telecast, 6.2 million United States households were tuned in CBS Sports Sunday, the time slot that aired the American Cup, won the battle of network sports ratings for the week ending March 2. The 7.3 Nielsen Rating was better than ABC's Pro Bowler's Tour (Sat 7 1), ABC's Wild World of Sports (Sat. 6 6) and CBS' Detroit Pistons - Boston Celtics NBA game which preceeded the gymnastics competition (6 0)

The producers and directors enjoyed working a gymnastics event because it was different from the normal football, basketball and baseball assignments. "There is a lot of creativity to this meet," Aceti said

"Gymnastics is a very personable sport," Producer John Faratzis said "In football, it's hard to see faces through helmets, but in gymnastics you can get the gymnast's reaction up close just before the routine."

Network TV sports ratings

Nielsen ratings for network sports events for week ending March 2

	Network, Event	Rating
1	CBS Sports Sunday (gymnastics)	7 3
2	ABC Pro Bowlers Tour (Sat.)	7 1
	ABC Wide World of Sports (Holyfield-Mutti	
3	light) (Sat)	6 6
4	CBS NBA (Pistons Celtics) (Sun)	6 0
	ABC Wide World of Sports (Race Across America)	
5	(Sun)	5 6
6	NBC college basketball (N C Duke) (Sun)	5 4
7	CBS NBA postgame (Sun)	5 3
8	NBC Honda Classic golf (Sun.)	4 6
	NBC Honda Classic golf (Sat.)	4 2
	CBS college basketball (Iowa-Indiana) (Sun)	4 2
	CBS college basketball (Illinois-Ga Tech)	
11	(Sat.)	4 2
	ABC Budweiser Boxing (Breland Aguirre) (Sun)	
12		4 1
13	NBC college basketball (N C St-Okla) (Sat)	3 9
14	NBC coll bask (LSU-Ky DePaul-UCLA) (Sat)	3 5
15	NBC SportsWorld Sports Fantasy (Sun)	3 1

One rating point equals 1 percent of the USA's 85.9 million TV homes

• Source A.C Nielsen Co /USA Today

The only draw for the network isn't the sport itself The meet's format has something to do with it's selection "The format for Sunday's competition is just perfect for television," said Faratzis. "We can build excitement and concentrate on the gymnast and the race, be it for first or second" As it turned out, the race was right down to the wire for the men's and women's all-around titles, which certainly doesn't hurt the ratings

For the meet, CBS had three hard, or stationary, cameras mounted above and four mini, or portable, cameras The people behind those cameras were an assortment of experienced cameramen the director pulled together from across the nation. "Most of these cameramen I have worked with before," Aceti said adding, "that's just because I have been around so long"

John Tesh, veteran commentator and Bart Conner, veteran gymnast, were working the meet for the network Conner, winner of many international titles, including the American Cup in 1976, feels his progression from the floor to behind the "mike" is a natural one "I have spent the last 16 years of my life talking about gymnasts, so what does it matter if I'm on the air or not. I always have a lot of fun talking about the sport Gymnastics has been very, very good to me," Conner said

Another Look At 1986 McDonald's American Cup Competitors

(Right) Melissa Marlowe performed with true grit throughout. She hit her bars routine to win that event. (Above, top) Sabrina Mar's presence was felt although the USA champion had her first off-day in over a year. (Above) China's Wang Chongsheng threatened for the title throughout, finally placing third all-around. (USGF photos © 1986, by Dave Black)

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Cut From The Same Cloth

USA's Phillips And The Soviet Union's Baraksanova

By Mike Botkin

Kristie Phillips and Irina Baraksanova are two gymnasts cut from the same cloth. Both are young, talented and very much an integral part of their country's world gymnastics future.

Like most gymnasts, the two have an idol — someone they have patterned themselves after. For Phillips, it's Mary Lou Retton, whom she has had the opportunity to train with under the legendary Bela Karolyi. For Baraksanova, it is the great Olga Korbut.

'Mary Lou Retton has done a lot for the sport and I would like to follow in her footsteps. I don't want to be Mary Lou Retton II, I want to be Kristie Phillips I.' -Phillips

With every young gymnastics talent, comparisons are made. The same is true for these two as they are compared with their idols. For many aspiring athletes, to be mentioned in the same breath with a legend creates pressure. But this is not the case for these two gymnasts who live worlds apart.

"I very much love gymnastics and I love performing," said the 16-year-old Baraksanova. "I idolize Olga Korbut but I feel no pressure to be the next Olga. I just want to be one of the top gymnasts — one of the first in my country."

Phillips, a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, shares Baraksanova's view. "Mary Lou Retton has done a lot for the sport and I would like to follow in her footsteps. I also want to establish myself and my own personality, though. I'm working real hard to be the next Mary Lou Retton and I'm getting there. I don't want to be Mary Lou Retton II, I want to be Kristie Phillips I," she said with a wide grin.

Kristie Phillips is becoming very well known throughout the gymnastics world. Her flexibility and ability give her reasons for her success.

Coaching Phillips to this title is the powerful Romanian, Karolyi. In the 12-year history of the American Cup, Karolyi has coached five winners. Nadia Comaneci was the American Cup's first female winner in 1976. Next were Retton's three victories in 1983-85 and now Phillips. "Mary Lou and Kristie are two very different gymnasts, mentally and in body type," said Karolyi. "Mary Lou is a very powerful gymnast, very explosive. Kristie is very flexible, has very good coordination and has a lot of raw talent."

Just about the only thing Retton and Phillips have in common is the timing. "We have the same situation here (at the American Cup) as we had in 1983. Phillips is jumping into the American Cup as an unknown, just as May Lou did. That's why I consider this competition so important. Many gymnasts have made their name at this meet. There is no other meet

going on in the world at this time so it is a good chance to put a spotlight on a few gymnasts," Karolyi said.

Dance is a very important part of the Soviet Union's training program. During the recent World Championships this aspect was very evident as the Soviet women swept their way to a gold team medal. Floor exercise is one of Baraksanova's favorite events. "On floor I want to show my feeling from the heart. When people listen to my music, they should understand my feeling."

"I spend up to an hour a day on dance," Baraksanova said. "It just depends upon how I am doing — my coach works out my schedule. Dance is the very basis of our program, as it is in many countries. We stress dance, that's why we are so good. Irina Milogradora is my choreographer. She has no gymnastics background, it is not necessary. She is a ballet dancer, only," she stressed.

One of Phillips' favorite events is also floor. "I like to smile, dance and play with the crowd," she said. Her training is different from that of her Soviet counterpart. Although Phillips is very young, 13, she possesses great ability. "Geza Pozar (choreographer for Nadia Comaneci, who defected from Romania with the Karolyis' in 1981) comes into the gym once a month for a whole day," Phillips said. "We usually spend one hour per week on ballet but Marta (Karolyi) has us do a lot of compulsory floor in the morning practice."

'Dance is the very basis of our program, as it is in many countries. We stress dance, that's why we are so good. I spend one hour a day on dance.' -Baraksanova

Irina Baraksanova has set her sites on the 1988 Olympics. If the American Cup and 1985 World Championships are any indication, the Soviet star should be among the competitors. (USGF photos, © 1986, by Dave Black).

Another point the two have in common is beam, also a favorite. This is the event Phillips will be best noted for, due to her incredible flexibility. She demonstrates this by doing a reverse planche to a straddle reverse planche which may become known as "the Phillips." "Ever since I was four-years-old, I have known about my flexibility. Because of this my parents talked me into gymnastics and I'm glad they did. Beam is my best event and I like to show my flexibility," Phillips said.

Both were not able to participate in the 1984 Olympics: Phillips, because she was too young, and thus not able to qualify, and Baraksanova because of her country's decision to boycott. "I saw the Olympics on video tape. Some of the athletes were very strong and I enjoyed the competition very much," Baraksanova said. "The feeling of our athletes is the same. I wanted to come here (Los Angeles) to show my talents but I didn't want to go to a country where we were unwanted. My parents were very afraid. They read the papers, too."

As is the case with many successful gymnasts, both started at an early age. Baraksanova began when she was in second grade, Phillips got her start at age five. "A coach came to my school and gave us some tests, then chose the qualified children. After that I trained very hard in gymnastics to become one of the best, one of the top," said Baraksanova.

The 1988 Olympics is currently on the list of goals of both gymnasts. Both are also thinking academics with Baraksanova graduating this year and Phillips in 1990. "I have had to think about the future because I am going to graduate from school soon," said the Soviet star. "I am fond of history and enjoy Russian literature but I want to be a sports doctor."

"I want to make the 1988 and possibly the 1992 Olympic teams," said Phillips. "Bela is a great coach, that's evidenced by the number of Olympic champions he has coached. Let's hope he can coach another one — me."

Defending national champion Sabrina Mar had her ups and downs during this event but finished strong with a 9.650 on floor. Brian Babcock, men's defending champion, performed very well but because of an American Cup rule, could not participate in the finals despite qualifying. (USGF photos © 1986, by Dave Black).

Barbieri Long-Time Cup Favorite

By Mike Botkin

Laurent Barbieri keeps his weight in control by cooking Chinese food. (USGF photo © 1986, by Dave Black.)

Whether he is driving his black sports car through the hills of France at over 200 km/120 mph, watching Steven Speilberg movies or playing European football, Laurent Barbieri's mind is never far away from his true love — gymnastics.

"Gymnastics is my life," said the three-time McDonald's American Cup contender. "I want to become a gymnastics instructor after my competition career. I have a strong desire to work with children. I feel it is harder and more important. They need to be developed early."

Barbieri's beginning stages have the same scenario as many world-class gymnasts. "I had some friends who were participating in gymnastics, so I followed them to the gym. That was when I was seven years old," he said. "I found it was a lot of fun and when I did well, I began to get serious."

He was so serious about the sport that he packed his bags and moved to the National Training Center in Monteeau Les Mines at the age of 16. "I lived there for nine years. When I first left home, it was very hard leaving my family and friends. Also," he stressed, " I went from training 12 hours a week to 24 hours a week and that will change your life. But, as in everything, you get used to it."

Ever since his move from his hometown of Tolouse (800 km or 320 miles from Paris in the Burgandy Valley), Barbien has been part of the French gymnastics system. "The Federation and the Olympic Committee pays for training expenses for 15 gymnasts," said the 1985 French national champion. "I have a contract with the Postal Administration to work part-time. This is very good because it gives me money to live on and security. If I should be injured, I could go to work there if I wanted. It gives me something to fall back on."

During the 1985 World Championships, Barbieri became one of the few gymnasts other than those from the Soviet Union, China and the German Democratic Republic, to garner a medal. He tied with China's Lou Yun for a silver medal in vault. "It (the World Championships) was a very good experience and I came home with a good souvenir," he said with a smile. "Gymnastics is a sport where it is difficult to do well. I thought I was more ready for the floor and high bar than I was for vault. But I did a good job in the compulsory (9.80) and that helped me get into a good position. Floor, high bar and vault are now my best events," he added.

Barbieri's French teammates were well prepared for the World Championships, but, according to the 25-year-old physical education major, the team was devastated by injuries. "We had to compete with a very young team. But the experience gained by our youth at the World Championships will help us do well in the 1987 World Championships. That is a very important meet for our team. It is very important to do well in 1987 because that is the selection for the 1988 Olympics. We will have a very good team," he said.

Looking down the path to 1988 and the Olympics, Barbieri feels that will be his last bid at a large-scale gymnastics competition. "My goal is to make the 1988 Olympic team. That, I feel, will be my last chance. I will be 28 and that's old in this sport. After that is when I will go into sports training."

Between international gymnastics events, Barbieri resides in Paris and is continuing his education at the National Institute of Sport. "I moved to Paris in November of 1985 to study. I will be finished in February of 1987. Since the move I have gotten an apartment. Since I travel so much and am gone for long periods of time, I can't have any animals (pets), but I do have a plant," he proudly boasted, adding, "it's a very strong plant."

In the true French tradition, Barbieri enjoys cooking. But he deviates from the normal pattern expected of a typical Parisian. "My favorite food is Chinese. I don't say that I cook it so well, but I like it mainly because there is such a large selection. I have never had to watch my weight or what I eat because I train so hard. I never gain weight."

Competing in America is one of Barbieri's favorite activities, in fact he has been here 10 times previously. "I especially like Los Angeles. During the Olympics, I didn't get around that much, but what I did see I liked."

Soviet Union Edges America

In 1986 McDonald's International Mixed Pairs

By Susan Polakoff

Experience paid off — but not by much. Alexsei Tikhonkin and Irina Baraksanova, members of the 1985 World Champion Soviet Union team, won the 1986 McDonald's International Mixed Pairs title, March 7, in Hampton, VA, but the USA's youthful pair of Kristie Phillips and Brian Ginsberg gave the Soviets a true test of their skills.

Phillips and Ginsberg finished in second place with a score of 57.70, while the Soviet pair scored a 57.95 before the sell-out crowd of 8,891 in the Hampton Coliseum.

Ulf Hoffman and Simone Harperath of the German Democratic Republic took third place with a score of 56.900. Twenty pairs of gymnasts from 19 countries competed in the seventh edition of this unique contest. The field was cut to eight teams after the first round, then to three for the final gold medal round.

Leading the pack through three rounds were the Soviet duo, but Phillips and Ginsberg seemed to be within reach throughout the contest. Phillips saved her strongest event, the balance beam, for last. Unfortunately the 13 year-old blonde from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, slipped off the beam, scoring a 9.35.

Later that evening in a press conference, Phillips said, "I was just over confident and I wasn't thinking what I was doing. I should have concentrated more. I'm sorry. I just didn't stick it," she said.

China's Wang Chongsheng was impressive during the McDonald's International Mixed Pairs. For example he used a flair to handstand pirouette sequence during his pommel horse routine and scored a 9.70 for his efforts. (USGF photo © 1986, by Dave Black)

An average beam performance would have given Phillips and Ginsberg the lead. The Americans trailed the Soviets by .15 of a point going into final round. The suspense was heightened when Baraksanova fell out of bounds during her last event, the floor, to receive a 9.25.

The Soviet's strategy proved to be the successful combination. Tikhonkin preformed his weakest event, rings, first while his teammate Baraksanova chose her strongest event, the vault. Tikhonkin earned the heighest mark of the competition, a 9.8 on high bar, in the final round.

1986 McDonald's
INTERNATIONAL MIXED PAIRS

03-07-1986
Hampton, VA.

INDIVIDUAL SCORES

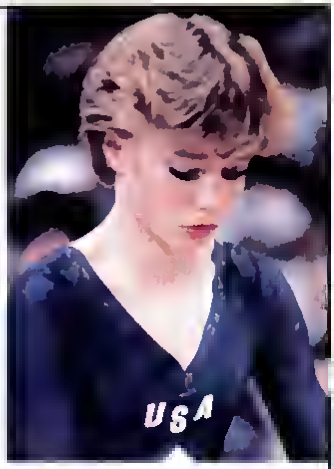
			A.A.
1	IRINA BARAKSANOVA	URS	28.750
	ALEXSEI TIKHONKIN	URS	29.200
		TOTAL	57.950
2	KRISTIE PHILLIPS	USA	28.800
	BRIAN GINSBERG	USA	28.900
		TOTAL	57.700
3	SIMONE HARPERATH	GDR	28.250
	ULF HOFFMANN	GDR	28.650
		TOTAL	56.900
4	TRACY CALORE	USA	19.250
	TIM DAGGETT	USA	19.450
		TOTAL	38.700
5	ZENG YINGZI	CHN	18.550
	WANG CHONGSHENG	CHN	19.300
		TOTAL	37.850
6	PATRIZIA LUCONI	ITA	18.950
	PAOLO BUCCI	ITA	18.850
		TOTAL	37.700
7	NOBUKO ITO	JPN	9.500
	MITSUAKI WATANABE	JPN	9.600
		TOTAL	19.100
8	BORJANA STOJANOVA	BUL	9.550
	OIAN KOLEV	BUL	9.450
		TOTAL	18.000
8	MARIANA TUOOR	ROM	9.700
	VALENTIN PINTEA	ROM	9.300
		TOTAL	18.000
10	SANORINE VILLANNE	FRA	9.400
	TONY PINEDA	MEX	9.500
		TOTAL	18.900
11	CHRISTINE WETZEL	FRG	9.500
	JUERGEN BRUEMMER	FRG	9.350
		TOTAL	18.850
11	ALENA OREVJANA	TCH	9.500
	DOMINICK MINICUCCI	USA	9.350
		TOTAL	18.850
13	MELISSA MARLOWE	USA	9.400
	BRIAN BABCOCK	USA	9.400
		TOTAL	18.800
13	HAYLEY PRICE	GBR	9.400
	TERRY BARTLETT	GBR	9.400
		TOTAL	18.800
15	ANDREA LADANYI	HUN	9.400
	GYORGY GUCZOGHY	HUN	9.350
		TOTAL	18.750
16	CHRYSTEL ROBERT	FRA	9.300
	LAURENT BARBIERI	FRA	9.300
		TOTAL	18.600
16	DAYNERYS SANCHEZ	CUB	9.600
	RAUL TORRES	CUB	9.000
		TOTAL	18.600
16	DRIANA MENDEZ	VEN	9.250
	SHAW BYNG	AUS	9.350
		TOTAL	18.600
19	NICOLE STREULE	SUI	9.700
	MARKUS LEHMANN	SUI	9.400
		TOTAL	18.100
20	LUISA RIBEIRO	BRA	9.800
	CARLOS FULCHER	BRA	8.600
		TOTAL	17.400

USA's Tim Daggett and Tracy Calore were in third place after the second round, but did not compete in the final round since only one couple per country may compete in the finals.

Missy Marlowe, 14, and Brian Babcock, 25, paired to finish in 13th place while USA national junior team member, Dominick Minicucci, finished in 11th place with his Czechoslovakian teammate Alena Drevjana.

Marlowe, Talent Plus Character

By Susan Polakoff



Although soft-spoken Melissa "Missy" Marlowe may have dodged some of the limelight during the 1986 McDonald's Cup and the International Mixed Pairs contests, the articulate 14-year-old's efforts did not go unnoticed.

"She was excellent," said Robert Cowan, Men's Program Administrator of the United States Gymnastics Federation (USGF). "Even with her fall off the beam, she was 100 percent. Look out, she's tough."

Coached by Mark Lee of Rocky Mountain Gymnastics in Salt Lake City, Utah, Marlowe finished in fourth position in Saturday's preliminary round of the McDonald's American Cup. Since no more than two Americans were permitted to compete in the women's finals, Marlowe was "bumped" out of Sunday's finals.

Marlowe watched her teammates, Kristie Phillips and Sabrina Mar advance to Sunday's finals. At the end of Saturday's round, Phillips finished first with a score of 38.70. Mar finished third with 38.60. Marlowe scored a 38.18.

During Saturday's news conference, Marlowe said even though she was disappointed, she still believed limiting the number of athletes per country "is a good rule. It gives other countries a chance."

A few days after the competition, Marlowe said she was still proud of her performance. "Except for the fall off the beam," said Marlowe, "I was happy. Especially my uneven bars routine—that was close to my best performance on bars I have ever done," she said.

Her bars routine earned her a scored of 9.71, the highest score on bars for the day.

A veteran of international competition abroad, the American Cup was Marlowe's first international meet in the U.S. "It was really different. It was great having the crowd pull for you. It was definitely worthwhile but I know I will have to work even harder for upcoming events," she said.

Marlowe said her coach and family were very supportive. "They were happy I did so well," she said.

Next on the ninth grader's agenda are the U.S. Classic meet in April and the Championships of the USA in June in Indianapolis. "I will try for a certain score, not for a certain place. Since I'm on the junior team, I haven't paid lots of attention to the senior team, so I'm going to try to get the highest possible score I can. Then I'll see how I do," she said. "I'm just going to take it one step at a time."

Marlowe, who maintains a B-plus average at Rowland Hall-St. Marks School in Salt Lake, says although her favorite subject is biology, she would like to become an architect. "I'm not doing so well in geometry," she laughed. "I think it would be neat to design my own house."

Marlowe says she admires Sabrina Mar and Marie Roethlisberger. "They are SO good," she said.

When not in the gym or in school, Marlowe enjoys swimming, biking, and playing tennis. She enjoys listening to music by the Beach Boys, Tears for Fears, Wham! and Whitney Houston.

1986 AMERICAN CUP
03-01-1986
Fairfax, VA
Preliminary Round
INDIVIDUAL SCORES
WOMEN

			VAULT	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	A A
1	**KRISTIE PHILLIPS**	**USA**	**9 6750**	**9 6380**	**9 6750**	**9 7130**	**38 7010**
2	MARIANA TUDOR	ROM	9 5500	9 6380	9 6000	9 8000	38 6380
3	**SABRINA MAR**	**USA**	9 5000	**9 6750**	**9 7500**	**9.6750**	**38 6000**
	***MELISSA MARLOWE	**USA**	**9 8750**	**9 7130**	**9 1250**	**9 6750**	**38 1880**
4	BORJANA STOJANOVA	BUL	9 2500	9 1000	9 5750	9 6000	37 5250
5	MIRINA BARAKSANOVA	URS	9 6500	9 1000	9 8750	9 6750	37 3000
6	ANDREA LADANYI	HUN	9 4750	9 5500	9 4000	9 7500	37.1750
7	ALENA DREVJANA	TCH	9 4000	9 3750	9 6500	9 7250	37 1500
8	ZENG YINGZI	CHN	9 7000	9 5630	9 3750	9.3630	37 0010
9	CHRISTEL ROBERT	FRA	9 4250	9.2750	9 4000	9 7250	36 8250
10	NOBUKO ITO	JPN	9 3750	9 2000	9 6500	9.3250	36 5500
11	LUISA RIBEIRO	BRA	9 3750	9 3500	9 0000	9 8000	36 5250
12	DAYNERYS SANCHEZ	CUB	9 5000	9 3500	8 7500	9 8000	36 4000
13	SIMONE HARPERATH	GDR	9 8500	9 4250	9.9000	8 9750	36.0500
14	ORIANA MENDEZ	VEN	9 3000	9 3500	8.2250	9 0250	34 9000
14	NICOLE STREULE	SUI	8 7500	8 9250	8 4750	9 7500	34.3000
16	PATRIZIA LUCONI	ITA	9 7130	9 0380	7 8000	8.3250	34 8760
17	CHRISTINE WETZEL	FRG	9 5750	7 2750	9 6750	9 0750	34 6000
18	HAYLEY PRICE	GBR	9 5500	7 4250	8.6750	9 1750	33.8250

*** ONLY 2 GYMNASTS PER COUNTRY MAY ADVANCE TO FINALS

MEN

			FLOOR	HORSE	RINGS	VAULT	PBARS	H-BAR	A.A
1	CHONGSHENG	CHN	9 650	9 600	9 750	9 500	9 600	9 800	58 100
2	TIKHONKIN	URS	9 500	9 700	9 650	9 600	9 750	9 850	58 050
3	GUCZOGHY	HUN	9 200	9 700	9 600	9 450	9 650	9 700	57 300
3	**GINSBERG**	**USA**	**9 550**	**9 650**	**9 650**	**9 500**	**9 300**	**9 650**	**57.300**
5	**DAGGETT**	**USA**	**9 100**	**9 800**	**9 700**	**9 300**	**9 700**	**9 550**	**57 150**
6	HOFFMANN	GDR	9 300	9 600	9 350	9 450	9 700	9 600	57.000
	BABCOCK*	**USA**	**9 250**	**9 500**	**9 600**	**9 400**	**9 650**	**9 450**	**55 850**
7	KOLEV	BUL	9 100	9 250	9 450	9 460	9 500	9 450	56 200
8	BARBIERI	FRA	9 600	9 000	9 400	9 550	9 200	9 000	55 750
9	TORRES	CUB	9 300	9 300	9 000	9 250	9 050	9 650	55 550
10	WATANABE	JPN	9 300	9 100	9 450	9.600	9 350	9.300	55 100
11	BUCCI	ITA	8 700	9 200	9 100	9 200	9 300	9 350	54 850
12	BYNG	AUS	8 550	9 500	9 150	9 450	9 250	9 550	54 450
13	LEHMANN	SUI	8 400	9 300	9 500	9 300	9 500	9 400	54 400
14	PINTEA	ROM	8 800	9 250	9 050	9 300	9 300	9 850	53 550
15	BRUEMMER	FRG	8 800	9 000	9 100	9 450	7 850	9 700	52 900
16	FUKHER	BRA	9 200	7 600	8 250	9 200	8 700	8 800	51 750
17	PINEDA	MEX	9 050	8 700	9.550	9 150	9 500	3 000	49.950
18	BARTLETT	GBR	0 000	0 000	0.000	0.000	0-000	0 000	0 000

*** ONLY 2 GYMNASTS PER COUNTRY MAY ADVANCE TO FINALS

AMERICAN CUP FINALS 03-02-1986
WOMEN

			VAULT	BARS	BEAM	FLOOR	A.A
1	**KRISTIE PHILLIPS**	**USA**	**9 8500**	**9 4500**	**9 6750**	**9 8000**	**38.7750**
2	BORJANA STOJANOVA	BUL	9 6250	9 6000	9 6750	9 7000	38.6000
3	IRINA BARAKSANOVA	URS	9 8130	9 6500	9 4000	9 6250	38 4880
4	ZENG YINGZI	CHN	9 5250	9 9000	9 3250	9 6500	37 4000
5	MARIANA TUDOR	ROM	9 4750	9 9250	9 6250	9 0250	37 0500
6	**SABRINA MAR**	**USA**	**9 3750**	**9 0000**	**9 9250**	**9 6500**	**36 9500**
7	ALENA DREVJANA	TCH	9 4750	9 4750	9 0250	6 7000	35 6750
8	ANDREA LADANYI	HUN	9 4750	9 9250	9 3000	9 7250	36 4250

MEN

			FLOOR	HORSE	RINGS	VAULT	PBARS	H-BAR	A.A
1	TIKHONKIN	URS	9 650	9 650	9 650	9 600	9 900	9 900	58 350
2	GINSBERG	USA	9 800	9 750	9 750	9 000	9 650	9 550	58 100
3	CHONGSHENG	CHN	9 500	9 850	9 550	9 500	9 700	9 900	58 000
4	BARBIERI	FRA	9 700	9 600	9 500	9 800	9 600	9 800	57 800
5	HOFFMANN	GDR	9 600	9 650	9 550	9 500	9 700	9 700	57 700
6	KOLEV	BUL	9 200	9 350	9 500	9 400	9 500	9 600	56 550
7	GUCZOGHY	HUN	9 100	9 800	9 500	9 350	9 600	9 700	56 050
8	DAGGETT	USA	9 100	9 650	9 650	0 000	0 000	0 000	28 800

FLOOR-EXERCISE STANDINGS

PL	NAME	TEAM	SCORE
1	MARIANA TUDOR	ROM	9.8000
2	**KRISTIE PHILLIPS**	**USA**	**9.7130**
3	**SABRINA MAR**	**USA**	**9.6750**
9	**MELISSA MATLOWE**	**USA**	**9 6750**
3	IRINA BARAKSANOVA	URS	9.6750
6	BORJANA STOJANOVA	BUL	9 6000
7	ZENG YINGZI	CHN	9 3630
8	NOBUKO ITO	JPN	9 3250
9	CHRISTINE WETZEL	FRG	9.0750
10	ORIANA MENDEZ	VEN	9 0250

UNEVEN-BARS STANDINGS

PL	NAME	TEAM	SCORE
1	**MELISSA MARLOWE**	**USA**	**9 7130**
2	MARIANA TUDOR	ROM	9 6380
3	**SABRINA MAR**	**USA**	**9 6750**
4	**KRISTIE PHILLIPS**	**USA**	**9 6380**
5	ZENG YINGZI	CHN	9 5630
6	ANDREA LADANYI	HUN	9 5500
7	SIMONE HARPERATH	GDR	9 4250
9	ALENA DREVJANA	TCH	9 3750
9	LUISA RIBEIRO	BRA	9 3500
9	DAYNERYS SANCHEZ	CUB	9 3500

BALANCE-BEAM STANDINGS

PL	NAME	TEAM	SCORE
1	**SABRINA MAR**	**USA**	**9 7500**
2	**KRISTIE PHILLIPS**	**USA**	**9.6750**
3	ALENA DREVJANA	TCH	9 6500
4	MARIANA TUDOR	ROM	9 6000
5	BORJANA STOJANOVA	BUL	9.5750
6	CHRISTEL ROBERT	FRA	9 4000
6	ANDREA LADANYI	HUN	9 4000
9	ZENG YINGZI	CHN	9 3750
9	**MELISSA MARLOWE**	**USA**	**9 1250**
10	LUISA RIBEIRO	BRA	9 0000

VAULT STANDINGS

PL	NAME	TEAM	SCORE
1	PATRIZIA LUCONI	ITA	9 7130
2	**KRISTIE PHILLIPS**	**USA**	**9 6750**
2	**MELISSA MARLOWE**	**USA**	**9 6750**
4	IRINA BARAKSANOVA	URS	9 6500
5	CHRISTINE WETZEL	FRG	9 5750
6	MARIANA TUDOR	ROM	9 5500
6	HAYLEY PRICE	GBR	9 5500
9	**SABRINA MAR**	**USA**	**9 5000**
9	DAYNERYS SANCHEZ	CUB	9 5000
10	ANDREA LADANYI	HUN	9 4750

HORIZONTAL-BAR STANDINGS

PL	NAME	TEAM	SCORE
1	ALEXSEI TIKHONKIN	URS	9 850
2	WANG CHONGSHENG	CHN	9 800
3	GYORGY GUCZOOHY	HUN	9 700
4	RAUL TORRES	CUB	9 650
4	**BRIAN GINSBERG**	**USA**	**9 650**
7	**TIM DAGGETT**	**USA**	**9.550**
9	**BRIAN BABCOCK**	**USA**	**9 450**

PARALLEL-BARS STANDINGS

PL	NAME	TEAM	SCORE
1	WANG CHONGSHENG	CHN	9 800
2	ALEXSEI TIKHONKIN	URS	9 750
3	**TIM DAGGETT**	**USA**	**9 700**
3	ULF HOFFMANN	GDR	9 700
5	GYORGY GUCZOGHY	HUN	9 650
9	**BRIAN BABCOCK**	**USA**	**9 650**
10	**BRIAN GINSBERG**	**USA**	**9.300**

VAULT STANDINGS

PL	NAME	TEAM	SCORE
1	MITSUAKI WATANABE	JPN	9 600
1	ALEXSEI TIKHONKIN	URS	9.600
3	LAURENT BARBIERI	FRA	9.550
4	WANG CHONGSHENG	CHN	9.500
4	**BRIAN GINSBERG**	**USA**	**9 500**
9	SHAW BYNG	AUS	9 450

STILL-RINGS STANDINGS

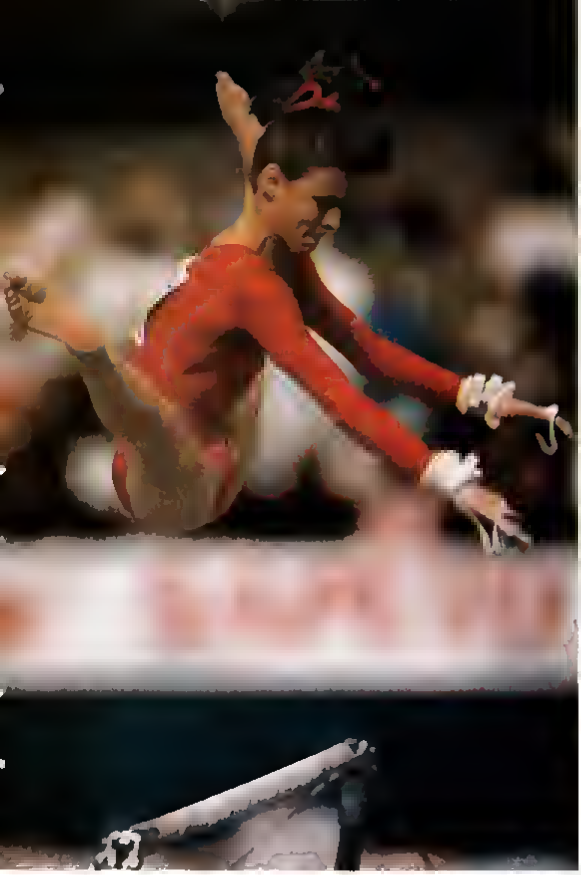
PL	NAME	TEAM	SCORE
1	WANG CHONGSHENG	CHN	9 750
2	**TIM DAGGETT**	**USA**	**9 700**
3	**BRIAN GINSBERG**	**USA**	**9 650**
3	ALEXSEI TIKHONKIN	URS	9 650
5	GYORGY GUCZOGHY	HUN	9 600
5	**BRIAN BABCOCK**	**USA**	**9 600**

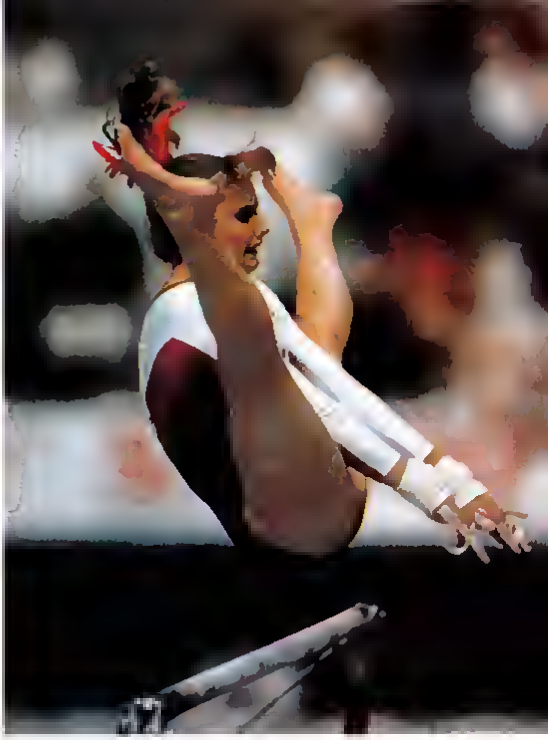
POMMEL-HORSE STANDINGS

PL	NAME	TEAM	SCORE
1	**TIM DAGGETT**	**USA**	**9 800**
2	ALEXSEI TIKHONKIN	URS	9 700
2	GYORGY GUCZOGHY	HUN	9 700
2	TONY PINEDA	MEX	9 700
5	**BRIAN GINSBERG**	**USA**	**9 650**
6	**BRIAN BABCOCK**	**USA**	**9.500**

FLOOR-EXERCISE STANDINGS

PL	NAME	TEAM	SCORE
1	WANG CHONGSHENG	CHN	9 650
2	LAURENT BARBIERI	FRA	9 600
3	**BRIAN GINSBERG**	**USA**	**9 550**
4	ALEXSEI TIKHONKIN	URS	9 500
5	RAUL TORRES	CUB	9.300
5	ULF HOFFMANN	GDR	9 300
5	MITSUAKI WATANABE	JPN	9 300
8	**BRIAN BABCOCK**	**USA**	**9 250**





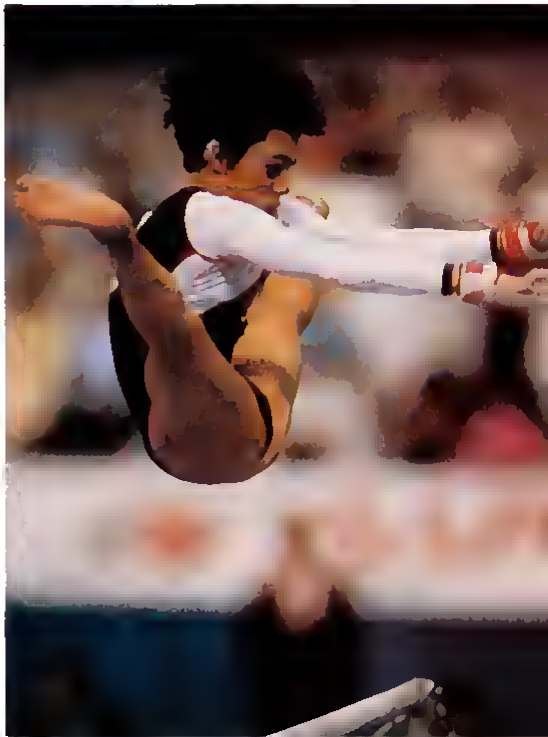
From 1985 World Championships

Technical Comparison

"A picture is worth a thousand words." Oh, how true this is especially in these photo comparisons of skills. This is just one example of the ultimate in amplitude and execution of performance shown by the Soviet Union women at the World Championships in Montreal.

In the above photos, there is an obvious difference in the amplitude of the Tkatchev as demonstrated by these athletes. Note the position of the legs, the distance of the hips from the bar and finally, the position of the feet. As one can easily see, it is no longer good enough to "just complete the element."

-Delene Darst, Women's Program Administrator



Super Clubs

Perseverance Pays Off For Parkette Owners

By Mike Poorman

It's 5:35 p.m. Tuesday at 401 Lawrence St., site of one of the more successful businesses in Allentown, Pa. The French junior national team is back for its second session of the day. In the morning, it practiced next to an aerobics class and the parents and two-year-olds who make up a "Mom and Me" group. Now the French gymnasts share the 25,000 square-foot facility and $200,000 worth of apparatus with a hodge-podge that includes elites, a boys' team and hundreds of age-group class members. Two members of the Puerto Rican national team stretch just a somersault away from six-year-old boys in blue jeans and sweatshirts. An adult class, which features a 65-year-old grandmother who does backflips, will be in at 9 p.m.

Just another typical day at the Parkette National Gymnastic Training Center, home of 1,300 gymnasts of every age, shape and ability.

"We never thought we'd end up like this when we started out," Bill Strauss, co-owner, said taking a rare breather. "There have been a lot of hassles and problems along the way. To have this, and to be here working with all these different levels of kids, well, it's a minor miracle."

Maybe, but like all miracles it couldn't have happened without faith, good works, perseverance and a saintly amount of patience. And the husband and wife coaching team of Bill and Donna Strauss, for they are the parents and protectors of the Parkettes, a beautiful 20-year-old dreamboat that has prospered after surviving a difficult and unstable childhood.

Born in 1965 after Donna went to a clinic hoping to stay one step ahead of the gym club and cheerleaders where she taught junior high school, the Parkettes (names after the school's late principal, Carroll Parks) have evolved into one of the country's top gymnastics teams. In 1983, the Parkettes won first place in the USA/GC team championships and last year had two women make the World Championship team, four on the national

With the Parkettes banner and Olympic rings in the background, gymnasts get an arena-like feeling when they compete in the many meets hosted by the club or when putting in the long hours it takes to become a gymnast. (photo © 1986 by Eric C. Hegedus)

team and three more earn college scholarships

Impressive, but even more so given the Parkettes' humble beginnings Their first home was the third floor of a fire hall, their second, a renovated barn plagued by pigeon droppings and arctic breezes. "The first cold spell we had, someone gave us an old wooden stove for the barn," Bill recalls. "The wind would come down, blow out the stove and blow smoke all over the place." Stops at a small private school and a dimly-lit church basement followed

The next move was a big one, to a run-down Allentown burlesque theater called Symphony Hall "The old theater was on the first floor," says Donna, "and we renovated the second and third floors It was a mess One time plaster fell off the ceiling and just missed one of the girls who was practicing vaulting."

That was 1979 and time for a decision — before the roof caved in Should the Parkettes grow or stand pat? Class rolls numbered 500, a good base for any gymnastics school business And the Parkettes team (by now, a non-profit organization) was growing in reputation, having already had an Olympian in 1976 alternate Jodi Yocum and their first United States elite champion on floor exercise and balance beam Another move was risky, building a new facility almost ludicrous

"Bill and I could have gone along our merry way," Donna said "We could have gotten a facility half this size and still had classes for 1,300 But that's how dedicated we are to producing national and international level competitors We really stuck our necks out We could have lost everthing But that's the chance we took so that we could service not only the top-level Olympic aspirants, but the six-year-old beginner, too"

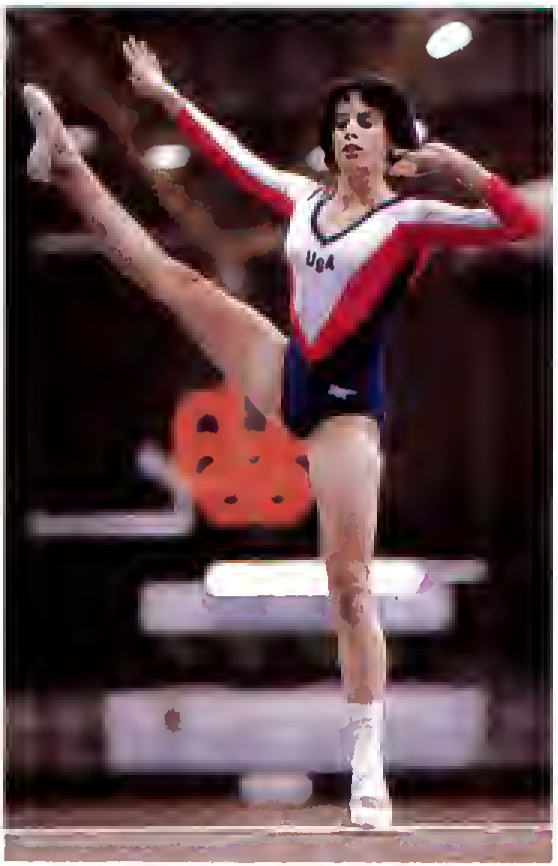
Elites Not Main Concern, But Successful

Since 1971, the Parkettes elite program has had at least one, and as many as 12 women gymnasts qualify for elite nationals. During that time they have had at least one, and as many as eight competitors on the national team And over the years more than three dozen Parkettes (girls) and Gymnastrum (boys) team members have earned college scholarships

Quite an accomplishment for Parkettes co-directors Bill and Donna Strauss and Gymnastrum coach Larry Moyer

Some of the more noteworthy Parkette alumnae include Jodi Yocum, an alternate on the 1976 U S Olympic team, Gina Stallone, a member of the 1983 World Championship team, Heidi Anderson, a silver medalist on floor exercise in the 1979 Pan American Games, and Tracy Butler and Cindy Rosenberry, members of the 1983 Pan Am Games team.

Currently, the Parkettes have three seniors ranked in the nation's top 20 Jennifer Sey (No. 3), Tracy Calore (No. 5) and Jennifer Greenhut (No. 20) And two team members are among the nation's top 10 juniors Hope Spivey (No 3) and Alyssa Solomon (No 7)



Tracy Calore is one of the current USGF national team members spawned from the Parkette's farm Here she is performing on beam as a member of the 1985 World Championship team (USGF photo © 1985, by Dave Black)

The team of Bill and Donna Strauss have waded through the difficult times to build one of the more successful clubs in the country (photo © 1986, Eric C. Hegedus)

To get the size facility they wanted, the Strausses knew the entire program had to go non-profit. And they knew they needed corporate support. So they knocked on doors, wrote letters and didn't give up.

"You get so frustrated when you're seeking funds," said Bill, who has remained an elementary school teacher through the years for both the love of the kids and the need for at least one stable income in the family. "We went for years and years and we just really hit rock-bottom. We went from corporation to corporation and they were very friendly. 'We know you're doing a good job, but . . .' Finally, through our persistence and continuous efforts, we finally met Mr. Pelletier."

That's Alfred W. Pelletier, chairman of the board and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Mack Trucks, Inc., until he retired last November. Pelletier, a Canadian who loved sports but knew nothing of gymnastics, agreed to head a Parkette building campaign. He pledged $50,000 of Mack Truck's money and used his business and community connections to help turn the Strausses' dream into an $800,000 training center reality. The local Trexler Foundation and Air Products also donated large amounts of money.

The city of Allentown donated land and industry contributed everything from a complete air conditioning system to 20 truckloads of foam for the center's 150-foot long and five-foot deep pit. The gym, one of the largest in the nation, opened Thanksgiving weekend, 1981. "Everyone pitched in," Donna remembers. "It was what we had waited for. We couldn't wipe the smiles off our faces."

The new facility cost $800,000 and brought with it a $500,000 mortgage. Throw in an annual operating budget that has reached $600,000 and you're talking big business — with or without pigeon droppings. None of the current expenses are paid by corporate sponsorship. "People don't want to believe that," says Bill, "but it's true."

An executive board consisting of the Strausses, a Mack Truck vice president and five parents — four of them with current gymnasts — runs the Parkettes, as well as the accompanying boys' team, Gymnastrum, coached by Larry Moyer. One parent, Max Lazar, does monthly financial reports and projections on his Apple computer. Another, Janice Cooper, serves as a meet statistician and telethon director, while Bill Fishler — whose daughter, Kym, is at Penn State on a gymnastics scholarship — has been a jack-of-all-trades for the Parkettes for more than a decade.

The result is the Parkettes. "I think people just look at the final product and that's a shame," Bill believes. "They want it done too quickly. You have to pick and scrap and claw to maintain a club like this."

The Parkettes are more than a club, they're a business, with a mortgage in six figures to prove it. But the bottom line is people, not dollars.

"Sure we want Olympic champions and national champions, but that's not the bottom line," Donna says. "We're producing disciplined individuals and good citizens. That's what's really important to us."

Looking at the Parkettes expansive facility, Donna Strauss stresses it's the kids, not the money that keeps them going. (photo © 1986, Eric C. Hegedus)

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Ten things the Parkettes staff says gymnastics club owners can do to make their clubs a success.

1. **BE INVENTIVE IN YOUR FUND-RAISERS.** In addition to selling more than $100,000 in candy a year (during Easter and Christmas) the Parkettes have an annual telethon that is televised locally. At last year's event, hosted by a Philadelphia celebrity and featuring pro athletes, congressman and local personalities, Allentown's mayor promised to shovel the sidewalk and fill a pothole of the highest bidder. Auctions, food sales and 132-page yearbook also produce revenue.

2. **DON'T FREEZE PARENTS OUT.** "All our parents are allowed to observe and if they have questions, after practice they ask," says Bill Strauss. "Parents have to understand what's going on so they can positively support their kid and not negatively criticize the coaches."

3. **USE TALENTS OF PARENTS, SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS.** Parkette parents are expected to chip in and do everything from help stage meets to sell program ads to build office shelves. The occupations of all parents are kept on file. A team doctor and pediatrician offer their services at reduced or no cost. Some supporters use vacation days to help run meets.

4. **DELEGATE, DELEGATE, DELEGATE.** No one can do it all. The Strausses are co-directors and are primarily coaches. There are class directors for both pre-school and after-school groups. And each board director has his or her specialty fund-raising, meet preparation, travel and the telethon.

5. **INVOLVE THE COMMUNITY.** The local media covers Parkettes events regularly. Parkettes of all skills frequently give free exhibitions throughout the area. Local high schools occasionally practice at the center. An open house five years ago drew more than 15,000 people in one day. And, says Bill Strauss, "our doors are open to anyone who wants to come in and see what we're about."

6. **TREAT ELITES AND CLASS MEMBERS ALIKE.** "We're family-oriented," says Robin Netwell, who has been with the Parkettes for 16 years as a competitor and coach. "The Strausses stress that we should treat each and every kid the same, like they're our own kids."

7. **DEVELOP YOUR OWN FARM SYSTEM.** "Our kids are Parkettes from Day One," says long-time coach John Holman. "We take them as little beginners and work with them. We don't rely on gymnasts coming to us already trained, although that does happen, too."

8. **AIM FOR CORPORATE SUPPORT, BUT DON'T RELY ON IT.** It took the Strausses decades and hundreds of letters to finally get the initial backing of a sponsor like Mack Truck. But the Parkettes are on their own now and in budgeting, they never figure on any outside dollars. "Your livelihood must be generated from the organization," says Bill Struass. "Then whatever help you get is icing on the cake."

9. **EMPLOY GOOD COACHES — AND ALLOW THEM TO COACH.** There are 12 full-time coaches at the training center and their main job is to coach. Larry Moyer has rein over the boys' program, while the top girls' assistants make it clear that there's little ego involved when it comes to coaching. Says Robin Netwell: "The kids always come first."

10. **REMEMBER WHY YOU'RE IN IT.** When bills have to be paid, or an injury ruins three years of dedication, stop and think. "The minute you're depressed and at your lowest point," says Bill Strauss, "along comes that cute little kid looking you in the eye, asking for some help. Then all you can say is, Damn, here I go again."

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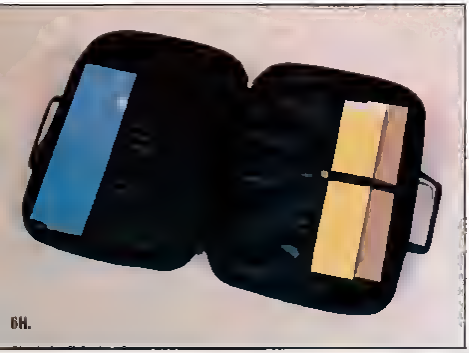

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NATIONAL OFFICE NEWS

Bakos Lends Korea Helping Hand

Rhythmic gymnastics coach Maria Bakos took part in an education process as she was invited to display her theories to the gymnasts and coaches of Korea. During the time of her stay, Bakos conducted morning and afternoon sessions six days a week to the eager groups of national team coaches, judges, national committee members and rhythmic gymnasts of various levels.

Her subject matter included basic and advanced theory, as well as demonstrations of various apparatus using local athletes for demonstration purposes.

While in Korea, she was the guest of honor at a Korean Gymnastics Association (KGA) luncheon and welcoming reception. It was reported by the United States Information Agency in a telegram, that Bakos made a measurable contribution to the Korean rhythmic gymnastics program. "Unlike many other areas of sports where the Koreans have competed for many years, the rhythmic gymnastics program has yet to really get off the ground. Bakos' program was effective in pointing those who will shape the program in the right direction as they move to develop more competitive athletes. The timing of the program could not have been better — just prior to the World Championship meet in Spain, which was to be attended by Bakos and several of the ladies who took part in the clinics," the report said.

Bakos' dedication to the success of this brief program, coupled with an obvious desire to make a meaningful contribution to the sport's development in Korea set truly a positive atmosphere in which she and her charges could effectively work. The result of her effort will certainly be on view in the international sporting arena in the coming years.

Maria Bakos, top row center, is pictured with some of the Korean coaches who attended her course on rhythmic gymnastics. Seated are two gymnasts who aided Bakos in demonstrations. (USGF photo)

Ironman Eaton: Stormy Eaton (above) owner of the Desert Devil Gymnastics club in Scottsdale, Arizona, recently competed in and completed the 1985 Ironman Triathlon World Championship. Eaton placed first among all gymnasts entered and 45th out of 1,100 overall. He ended this grueling test of endurance (12 hours and 15 minutes) with a roundoff, flip-flop, flip-flop. Eaton began competing in marathons in 1981. He has competed in the Rim to Rim, Grand Canyon run in 1983 (20.3 miles across), took second in the Elite Fount in Mount in Triathlon (11 hours, 30 minutes) and placed 10th in the Arizona Challenge a 375 mile bike race around Arizona (22 hours, 30 minutes). Eaton says he will do an entire floor exercise routine after next year's Ironman competition if they let him.

BounceStyle Rhythmic Gymnastics Tours The U.S.

Procter & Gamble's (P&G) Bounce Fabric Softener has recently concluded the first segment of its sponsorship of rhythmic gymnastics. From September, 1985 through January, 1986, shopping mall performances of rhythmic gymnastics were performed in Chicago, Minneapolis, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Kansas City, Denver, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, Phoenix and San Diego. This national tour, "BounceStyle Presents Rhythmic Gymnastics" was designed to create public awareness and increase participation in Rhythmic Gymnastics.

Senior elite members of the U.S. National Team, 1984 Olympians Valerie Zimring and Michelle Berube, Olympic alternate Lydia Bree, Stacy Oversier, Lisa Aaronson, Marina Kunyavsky, Elizabeth Cull, and Wendy Hilliard were involved in shopping mall performances and the development of an one-hour rhythmic training tape done with the guidance and expertise of Alla Svirsky. Three varying spokespersons presented four, 20-minute performances per day on Saturday and Sunday at a shopping mall in each selected city.

Prior to the shopping mall performances, the women participated in media promotions with local television, radio stations and newspapers to promote rhythmics and the mall performances. Additionally, the athletes put on a free lecture demonstration in an area public school, club or park district for aspiring young rhythmic gymnasts to provide an opportunity for hands-on participation in rhythmic gymnastics.

Due to the success of the first sponsorship segment, P&G renewed its relationship with rhythmic gymnastics for a second 12-city tour. The second tour will not use shopping malls, but will utilize our rhythmic spokespersons and the expertise of Nora Hitzel, USGF's National Rhythmic Gymnastics Program Committee Director, to provide lecture demonstrations to large audiences of potential rhythmic gymnasts with an afternoon session for an audience of potential rhythmic gymnastics instructors.

Procter & Gamble, through its brand name "Bounce", has provided sponsorship support to the USGF rhythmic program at the grassroots level and P&G is generating publicity and interest for participation in rhythmic gymnastics. Also, they are funding the expenses of USGF to develop educational, promotional and instructional materials, as well as funding lecture demonstrations to follow up and establish rhythmic programs.

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Olympic rhythmic gymnast Valerie Zimring receives instructions prior to a taping session. (USGF photo)

Men's Championships Of The USA Team Selection Procedures

1 **Qualification** — Championships of the USA

A The 1986 Championships of the USA are scheduled for June 19-22, 1986 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

B Athletes will qualify to the USA Championships from five (5) qualifying meets on May 17-18, 1986 Exception those who score 108 in an approved meet other than the Regional Qualifiying Meet are automatically qualified

The Men's Program Administrator will certify these approved meets This certification requires that Competition I rules be used prior to the Regional Meets Competition II will be used at the Regronals Also at least two nationally certified judges will be required per event. More than one club/program must be in attendance

The Regional meet sites are UCLA, University of Oklahoma, University of Iowa, Great Lakes Gymnastics, Southern Connecticut State University Qualifying scores will be called in with results sent later to Robert Cowan, Men's Program Administrator

C. For compulsories in the Championships of the USA there will be 72 gymnasts There will be two sessions with 36 gymnasts competing in each These will be assigned randomly by draw to a session For optionals, the top 36 scores from compulsories will compete in the later session In case of a tie for 36th, the higher event compulsory score shall compete in the second session

D All-Around ranking will be determined from the compulsory-optional session There will be an individual event finals with 8 athletes per event Finals will include the event score and 50 percent of the combined compulsory and optional score

E. The Senior National Team will be the top 18 from the combined compulsory and optional session. Ties will not be broken

F The Senior Development Team will be the next top six who do not make the Senior team and are under the age of 20 The next four under the age of 18 will complete the Senior Development Team of 10 Ties will not be broken

G. In case of an injury, a gymnast may be petitioned on to the National Team by the Men's Program Committee

H. Petitions to the USA Championships will be accepted and should be sent to the Men's Program Administrator

II **Qualification** — Goodwill Games

A The Goodwill Games are scheduled for July 8-20, 1986 Competition will occur on July 13, 14 and 15 This event will take place in Moscow, USSR Additionally, there will be exhibition in Leningrad on July 20

B Athletes will qualify to the Goodwill Games by placing in the top finishers from Cha pionships of USA in Indianapolis

C Athletes who attend the Goodwill Games will be selected to compete in an International Dual Meet in W Germany on July 23 which will be followed by a trip to Italy (Capri) for an exhibition

III **Qualification** — United States Olympic Festival

A Competition at the U.S Olympic Festival will be on July 31 and August 2 in Houston, Texas

B 12 Senior Athletes in rank order from Championships of USA (including the senior Development team) will be invited to this competition

IV **Qualification** — South American Tour

A The South American tour to Venezuela and Brazil for exhibitions and training camps will occur from August 10-22, 1986

B The next 10 athletes in rank order on the Senior Team from Championships of USA not attending the Goodwill Games will be selected to travel to South America

V **Qualification** — Other events including the Pacific Alliance and International invitations will be assigned to National Team members as outlined by the Men's Program Committee

Drug Record

(From page 7)

The results indicated that, in general, gymnasts in the United States have had a very miniscule association with drugs or foreign substances Less than two percent of the sampled population indicated any use of performance enhancing drugs A similar percentage said that these drugs were provided by a coach, trainer or nonphysician

Caffein, or perking up drugs, were utilized by just 4 3 percent of the sample No respondents indicated any use of strength gaining drugs such as steroids Surprisingly, only a little over four percent (4.7 percent) of the sample indicated the use of weight control drugs The substance most frequently taken is vitamins Approximately 75 percent of the respondents regularly take vitamins

Even though almost 40 percent of the United States gymnasts believe that their Eastern European counterparts take drugs in order to enhance their performances, no gymnast in this survey indicated that they had ever taken a drug to help stop physical maturing or to delay menstruation

It appears that drug, or foreign substance use, by gymnasts from private clubs in the United States is minimal What little drug usage which has been identified, does not appear to occur at any one age A greater percent of males take "perk up" drugs, vitamins and pain control substances

With all the contemporary uproar concerning drugs and athletics, drug screening tests and legislation concerning drugs it seems to be "much ado" about nothing in gymnastics Young gymnasts in our country are not drug-wise, hooked or even concerned

NCAA Women's Meet Preview

Revolt In Air At Jacksonville

By Kathleen Delano

At first glance, it appears that the 1986 National Collegiate Athletic Association(NCAA) Women's Gymnastics Championships April 18-19 in Gainesville, Florida will blend into the sameness of the last five years — Utah on top by a healthy margin, the same five teams scrambling for second place, the other four teams scrambling for seventh place.

But taking a closer look, an overthrow of the reigning Utes could happen opening up the door for a host of well-established programs, which in recent years have had to settle for being the bridesmaid, never the bride. Challenging the Utes in their quest to "pick up six" are a host of other teams. Not one. Not two. But probably four other teams have a legitimate shot at the title.

Parity has come to women's collegiate gymnastics.

Granted, the Utes will not roll over and die. They are ready to fight and have several big guns to do it. Utah Coach Greg Marsden returns five All America gymnasts in Lisa Mitzel, Tina Hermann, Sandy Sobotka, Lynne Lederer and Cheryl Weatherstone, three of whom finished in the top 10 in the all-around last year (Mitzel, Sobotka, Lederer). But he loses All America tumbler Celeste Harrington and 1985 vaulting champion Elaine Alfano and adds only two freshman to the roster, a Class I gymnast and a walk on. The lack of new blood and the loss of two seniors could hurt Utah in light of the fact that the competition has gotten that much stronger.

However, Marsden feels his squad's consistency will pull them through to a sixth consecutive title. "The fact that we've won five championships has been a reflection of our consistency more than that we've been all that dominating and overpowering," Marsden said. "The thing that will determine how close it will be is how many hit routines a team has. At nationals last year, we hit 22 of 24 routines. We have a deeper team than we've ever had before; we've got seven all-arounders. We really have the potential to be at least that consistent. I like our chances as much as anybody elses."

Defending all-around champion Penny Hauschild of the University of Alabama will try to lend some consistency to her squad's NCAA title bid. Hauschild, a senior, hopes to peak during the championship meet

This year, for only the second time in the past six years, the NCAA championships meet will not be in Salt Lake City. Marsden says his team is not fazed by an away title bid. "We really compete well on the road. We're actually looking forward to going down there," Marsden said. "We like hosting it and it's fun to win at home. But winning it or competing on the road has its own reward as well."

Doing their best to stop Utah will be several revamped teams. Leading any list of the "new and improved" would

have to be Georgia. The Bulldogs have added four freshmen (elite gymnast and 1984 Olympic squad member Lucy Wener and Class I's Paula Maheu, Debbie Greco and Tanya Schuler) to a lineup that includes 1985 balance beam and uneven bars runner-up Terri Eckert, All American Gina Banales and all-arounder Julie Klick who has recovered from ankle surgery last spring. The team depth is such that Coach Susan Yoculan says, "We do not have a superstar on our team. I couldn't even predict who will be our top all-arounder. We can't decide who to put in."

With freshman Maheu scoring a national season high of 38.2 and Klick snatching the Southeastern Conference all around title from Alabama's 1985 national champion Penny Hauschild, Yoculan has a much sought after dilemma. And with the SEC title (defeating Florida and Alabama in Gainesville) under their belt and the national championship in their backyard, Yoculan couldn't be happier.

"For us, going to Florida is almost like home," Yoculan said. "I feel real fortunate that we had the opportunity to go to Florida prior to nationals. This will be an interesting national meet."

Another team out to make this year's championship interesting is 1985 NCAA runnerup Arizona State. The key to the Sun Devils being a legitimate threat is staying healthy. With only a seven-women roster, Arizona State Coach John Spini has put up only five women in some meets this season. However, four of his five all-arounders are several time All Americans including 1985 all around runnerup Kim Neal. Spini says four of his gymnasts (Neal, Lisa Zeis, Jackie Brummer and Shari Mann) are legitimate threats for the all around title, and he says the Florida location will be a big factor in dethroning Utah.

"It's going to be a big difference in competing against Utah. For the top three teams — Arizona State, Utah and Georgia — it's neutral ground," Spini said. "Everyone is looking pretty equal on paper. The trick will be to get in the top five and hit that night. I'm not going in there to beat anybody. We're going in there to do the best gymnastics we can. If we do that, we'll achieve our goals."

Sizing up the challengers wouldn't be complete without taking a look at Florida and Alabama. Florida's home court advantage coupled with a pair of Canadian Olympians and two freshmen elites may be the key to a successful grab of the title. Leading the Gators are two All Americans: Elfi Schelgel who placed third in the 1985 NCAA all around competition and Tammy Smith who grabbed fifth place in vaulting. Joining them are elite freshmen Leslie Gould, a three-year Canadian National Team Member and native Floridian Melissa Miller. As with Arizona State, a key to the Gators success is keeping the roster healthy.

The Crimson Tide will roll into Florida with the 1985 fourth place team largely intact. Alabama loses one senior, All American Barbara Mack, but has added four freshmen to help out the dynamic all-around duo of 1985 national champ Hauschild and All American Julie Estin. Although Alabama came in third in the SEC meet, Coach Sarah Patterson is optimistic about the NCAA title fight.

"We did not have a good meet at SEC's. We beat both teams prior to that," Patterson said. "I think if we can remain healthy and can get a little more consistent, we have a shot. We still have not yet reached our peak. Hopefully, we'll peak for regionals and the NCAA championship."

The dark horse award this year goes to UCLA who has a completely different team than last year's which failed to make the 10-team NCAA field. Coach Jerry Tomlinson recruited 10 freshmen including several past USGF National Team Members. With the young squad, UCLA has been scoring in the 184 range and has an outside shot.

Whether Marsden and crew retain the title or a new champ is crowned, 1986 may mark the beginning of a revolution in women's gymnastics.

Lisa Mitzel will lead defending champion Utah in its attempt to "pick up six."

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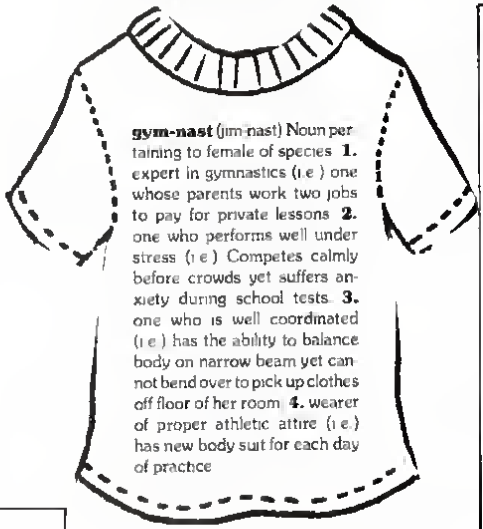

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C - PRAYER

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Now as I warm up for this meet,
I pray my competition I can beat.
And if I fail admist the cheers,
I pray I can hold back my tears,
And one more thing success or not,
I pray the creator of the beam be shot!

D - EXCUSE

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I LACK TALENT
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I RIPPED ON BARS
VAULT RUN WAS TOO SHORT
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MY STEPS WERE OFF
FLOOR MUSIC TOO LOW
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Information needed do you do clinics, what fees are when your club is available this summer Any week between June 9 and Aug 23 is available Limited gymnastics equipment can be brought For more information, contact Eileen Borchardt, 2101 West Perkins Ave , Sandusky, Ohio 44870 or call (419) 625 6164

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My name is Claes Lee-Andersson and I represent the Hammarby Gymnastics Association (Hammarbygymnasterna), one of the oldest and most successful gymnastic groups from Stockholm, Sweden

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The Hammarby assoc contains 600 active members—boys, girls and mixed troups as well as individual athletes—ages 5 to 25 and about 50 leaders and coaches Our national standard is very high—we are ranked number one in Sweden due to group gymnastics—and we have, through the years, been represented in the Swedish national team almost constantly For the moment we have four male junior athletes participating in the national team and several young "coming" boys and girls that will be ready to fight for a place on the team within the next two or three years

We have decided to send about 50 group gymnasts on a four week tour to the United States in 1986 and it's due to that decision I'm writing the USGF I would like to get names and addresses to gymnastic associations similar to the Hammarby assoc all over the US to compete against or make performance together with on our seniors

Our team will consist of different formations—boys, girls and mixed troups—and we want to compete in four different exercises floor (dancing and carpet exercise), jumping (over plinth) and high jumping from trampette The groups will be formed due to skill and age (the athletes will be between 12 to 17) and each troup containing eight to 10 athletes

Our address is:
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NATIONAL COACH POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

The USGF is currently seeking applicants for the position of National Coach/Curriculum Director Interested applicants should submit a resume along with a comprehensive plan for implementation to improve the National Program to

Robert Cowan, Mens Program Administrator
1099 N Meridian, Suite 380
Indianapolis, IN 46204 (317-638-8743)

Eligible applicants will be notified and invited to be interviewed at the Championships of the USA in Indianapolis in June (19-22) Salary and benefits are negotiable and commensurate with ability Contract dates would be through the 1988 Olympic Games and then continuing on a four-year basis thereafter This is an historical precedent for the Men's Program and the position is a very important one The person selected would be an advisory, resource individual who would assist the Senior gymnastics community in training and preparing international teams as well as assisting in creating and implementing developmental curriculum at all levels The person selected would have the responsibility and authority to improve our international team status

Deadline is: June 1, 1986

JUNIOR NATIONAL COACH POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

The USGF is currently seeking applicants for the position of Junior National Curriculum Director Interested applicants should submit a resume along with a comprehensive plan for implementation into the Junior Program to

Robert Cowan, Mens Program Administrator
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Indianapolis, IN 46204 (317-638-8743)

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Deadline is: June 1, 1986

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CALENDAR

UNITED STATES GYMNASTICS FEDERATION
1986-88 PROPOSED EVENT SCHEDULE
(Dates & Events subject to change or cancellation)
Updated March 11, 1986

1986
March

17-24	Cup of the City of the Popes (W)	Avignon, France
19-23	Women's Day Cup (R)	Prague, Czechoslovakia
22-29	Junior National Team Training Camp (M)	Colorado Springs, CO
25-Apr 5	Moscow-Riga & Leningrad (M/W)	Soviet Union
28	USA Jr Boys vs Canada Jr Boys (M)	Colorado Springs, CO
29-30	Second Elite Meet (W)	Various Sites (TBA)
31-Apr 7	XIV International Championships (M)	Budapest, Hungary

April

5-20	South African Games (M/W)	South Africa
8-14	Mirror Championships (W)	London, England
9-14	10th International Tournament (M)	Cottbus, GDR
10-12	American Classic Nationals (W)	Provo, UT
18-20	Rhythmic Championships of the USA	Los Angeles, CA
19-20	Class I State Meet (W)	Various Sites (TBA)
20-27	4th International Championships (M)	Algiers, Algeria
22-28	Int'l Gymnastics Tournament (M/W)	Ploiesti, Romania
24-27	USA vs USSR (M/W)	Worcester, Mass (Boston)
29	USA/USSR Exhibition (M/W)	New Haven, CT
29-May 4	VIII Int'l Championships of Hungary (R)	Debrecen, Hungary
30-May 7	International Sports Fair (M/W)	Tokyo, Japan

May

2	USA/USSR Exhibition (M/W)	Jacksonville, FL
3-4	Class I Regionals (W)	Various Sites (TBA)
4	USA/USSR Exhibition (M/W	Uniondale, New York
6-12	RSG "Studentska Tribuna" (R)	Sofia, Bulgaria
10-19	Cup of Liberation (M/W)	Czechoslovakia
14-19	Corbeil-Essones Souvenir (R)	Corbeil, France
16-17	Third Elite Meet (W)	Various Sites (TBA)
17-18	SR Elite Regional Qualifying Meets (M)	Various Sites (TBA)
18-23	Grand Prix de Rome (W/M)	Rome, Italy
21-31	Brother Cup (R)	Japan
24-25	Junior Olympic Eastern Nationals (W)	Blue Bell, PA
24-25	Junior Olympic Western Nationals (W)	Blue Springs, MO
27-June 7	Moncado Cup (M)	Cuba
29-31	U S Classic Nationals (W)	Phoenix, AZ

June

6-8	Junior Olympic Nationals For Girls (W)	Boca Raton, FL
19-22	McDonald's Championships of the USA (M/W)	Indianapolis, IN
*20-29	*RSG Elite Development Training Camp	Lake Placid, NY
23-29	Canadian Classic (W J)	Toronto, Canada
27-29	Junior Olympic Nationals (Jr Boys)	Atlanta, GA
29-July 6	Junior Boys Training Camp	Atlanta, GA

July

5-10	Goodwill Games (M/W/R)	Moscow, USSR

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16-29	II Brazil Cup (R)	Londrina/Sao Paulo BRA
20-30	European Tour (M/W)	Italy, Germany
24-30	Junior Training Camp (M) (10-12 yr olds)	Colorado Springs, CO
25-Aug 3	U S Olympic Festival (M/W/R)	Houston TX

August

1-15	Brazil Cup (M/W)	Brazil
3-21	Rhythmic Developmental Training Camp (R)	Colorado Springs, CO

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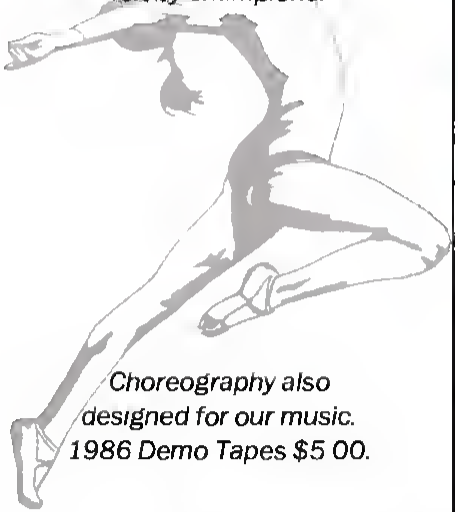

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